

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE — Advent Week 4: Peace Luke 2:8-21

1. **Opening Question:**

When you hear the word “peace,” what do you usually think of? A feeling, a circumstance, or a relationship? Why do you think that is?

2. **Scripture Reading:**

Luke 2:8–21

3. The shepherds were afraid when the angel appeared. What stands out to you about the fact that the announcement of peace begins in a moment of fear?
4. The sermon noted that the Bible’s idea of peace is larger than emotional calm. How did the explanation of *shalom* expand or challenge your understanding of peace?
5. Where are you most tempted to believe that peace will come only when your circumstances change?
6. Luke 2:14 says, “peace among those with whom he is pleased.” How does this verse show that peace begins vertically, between God and humanity, before it moves outward into our lives?
7. The sermon connected Christmas peace to Jesus dealing with sin, not ignoring it. Why is that distinction important for understanding the gospel?
8. We witnessed baptism this morning. How does baptism picture peace with God rather than personal improvement or self-effort?
9. After seeing Jesus, the shepherds went and told others what they had heard. What does their response teach us about how peace changes people?
10. Mary treasures and ponders these things in her heart. What does her response show us about faith when life still contains uncertainty?
11. The sermon contrasted the world’s message, “If I get control, I’ll have peace,” with the gospel’s message, “When I surrender control, I receive peace.” Where do you feel that tension most clearly right now?
12. Where in your life do you feel unrest, anxiety, or striving that might actually be pointing to a deeper need for peace with God?
13. How does knowing that peace is rooted in Christ’s finished work free you from trying to earn God’s approval?
14. As you close, pray for one another. Ask God to help you rest in the peace Christ has secured, especially in areas where fear or control feels strongest during this season.