

Unsung Hero's Project

This is your invitation to join the MCS family express God's Love to our communities Unsung Heros. The goal: to bless 150 families representing essential workers in the greater Sanford area. These men and women serve Sanford behind the scenes, they are always on call, always ready to step in when we need them the most.

Three Ways to Help

1. Sponsor a \$25 Gift Card. (please earmark your online or in person "Unsung Hero").
 2. Sign (first names only) our THANK YOU letter located in the Café Lobby.
 3. Pray for the Lord's best blessings on those we are serving!
-

Rediscover Christmas

Week 2

12/13/2020

Finding Peace in Our Struggles

(Luke 2:8-20, NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

1. The Peace (Shalom / Eirene) of God (The Bible Project)

The absence of conflict; everything complete and whole. To be restored, made whole by another; with everything renewed and back in place.

- Romans 5:1
- Colossians 1:19-20

2. Peace comes in the midst of our storms.

- Mark 6:45-52 (Walking past)
- Luke 8:22-25 (Asleep)

3. Peace defies our circumstances.

- Luke 7:36-50 (Defined by one's sinful choices)
- Luke 8:26-33 (Detained by one's sinful choices)
- Luke 8:43-48 (Diminished by circumstances)
- Luke 8:49-56 (Derailed by Death)

4. Peace is a Person

- Isaiah 9:6 (Prince of Peace)
- Ephesians 2:14 (He is our Peace)

DISCUSS & APPLY

1. In what areas of life have you experienced the peace (SHALOM / EIRINE) of God? In what areas do you still have NEED if restoration?
2. Can you articulate a time when Jesus brought the Peace of GOD into a personal STORM?
3. Can you articulate a time when Jesus brought the Peace of GOD into a personal circumstance that was beyond your control? Have you shared this story with anyone? Why not?
1. Take a moment to compose your own "Psalm" of praise declaring the goodness of God as you discovered His "shalom" restoring your spirit, soul and / or body. Feel free to borrow from the Psalms or other passages that articulate your experience and gratitude.