



# Sermon Growth Guide

**December 22, 2024**

**What Do You Name Him - Prince of Peace**

**Ephesians 2:12-22**

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 2:14

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

## Foundations

When the prophet Isaiah spoke of Jesus, he called him the Prince of Peace. When the angels announced his birth, they sang of peace on earth. When Jesus comforted his disciples, he promised them peace despite heartache. When the crowds surrounded him as he rode into Jerusalem on a colt, they joyfully praised him: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.” Paul extends peace throughout his writings— in greetings, salutations, and the body of his letters, even from his cold, dank prison cell. Peace. Shalom. The Kingdom of God drew near.

Perhaps at Christmas we long for the peace of Christ more than at any other time of the year. Yet, year after year, wars tear away at this hope. Hostilities grow as we focus on our differences. Is it any surprise that the most prestigious Nobel Prize is not the one for medicine, chemistry, or physics, but the one awarded for peace? In Ephesians, we read: “He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

Joyfully, we sing with the angels: “Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.” The Kingdom of God comes to us again and again.

## Understanding God’s Word

Read Ephesians 2:12-22 together. Discuss any barriers that you have experienced that may have kept you from the peace Jesus. In Jesus, we can be reconciled to our Holy God and also to those around us. Is reconciliation with a friend or family member something you have experienced? If you feel comfortable, share it with your group. Is reconciliation something you desire? Pray with your group about this situation.

If you have time, read together Isaiah 26:3, John 16:33, John 14:25-27, and Philippians 4:4-7. Talk together about how this peace of Jesus is different from the peace the world offers.

## Applying God’s Word

Mother Teresa wrote “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. All works of love are works of peace.”

What part do you play in bringing God’s Shalom to your world?

## Witnessing God’s Word

How can you live out the peace of Jesus? Some say even a smile can convey the love of God. In the hecticness of the few days left before Christmas, smile, sing, laugh... extend the joy of Jesus. Invite someone to experience the delight of worship on Christmas Eve. Set aside the differences this past year has highlighted and welcome once again the Prince of Peace into our world.