



WEEK 4

Peace

Advent

WEEKLY CANDLE
LIGHTING DEVOTIONAL

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6-7

This old testament prophecy of the messiah to come was spoken through the prophet Isaiah. The Jewish people anxiously awaited this powerful ruler who would come and set them free from oppression. They expected a King who would take charge through the government.

But that's not what God had planned. God rarely does things the way we would expect Him to, because His ways and His plans are so much bigger than our human minds can comprehend. Jesus came in an unexpected way, as a peaceful baby, to an ordinary family, to bring about peace in our hearts first.

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus was born into a world desperate for peace. We are not so different today. Our world is a world longing for peace. There is conflict between people groups, nations, political parties, religious groups, and individuals. There's internal conflict in the form of anxiety and stress. Where can we find peace?

We can be tempted to expect peace through the government, leadership groups, people with the most influence or money—we want laws changed to agree with what we believe so that we can feel peace. We want conflicts resolved, our circumstances changed.

The peace Jesus brings is not like the kind of peace the world offers—the peace resulting in lack of conflict or struggle. Jesus came to give us a peace that would go beyond our struggle. It's a peace that would transform our hearts.

For any true and lasting resolution to happen around us, it first begins within us. Jesus came to show us another way.

Light all four candles

As we light the fourth candle, we remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings peace in our lives.

Scripture Reading

- Luke 2:13–14 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.”
- Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
- John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the peace you give us. When worry and anxiety come, may your peace grow stronger in us. Help us focus on you first, in every moment, meeting, and experience so that we live in the promise of the peace that passes understanding.

Discussion

- What is peace?
- How does Jesus bring peace to the world?
- How can we find peace today?