



Peace Came Here | Week 1 | Doug Wekenman | 12.9-10

WEEKLY STUDY

SHARE

Go around the room and share your highs and lows from this past week

What is one thing you are grateful for when it comes to this time of year?

What is one lesson you feel like God is teaching you right now?

GROW

Welcome to our first week in our amazing Christmas Series at Red Rocks Church. In this series, we are beginning to focus on Advent before our Christmas Eve services. This week, Doug began the Christmas series with a message that focused on peace, and he gave us three points about peace in our lives: Peace is a Promise, Peace is a Path, and Peace is a Practice. This peace is not something we have to chase after, nor is it something that we have to earn. Peace actually came to us; it is a gift and was given to us, and we are called to walk in it. Peace is a huge part of what Christmas is all about. Before jumping into this, take some time to have someone recap the message as best as possible.

Read Luke 2:6-14

What details stand out to you in the description of Jesus' birth? What do you think these details are trying to communicate?

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." What do these titles mean, and why are they significant?

How does the story of Jesus' birth impact your understanding of God's love and salvation?

This story of Jesus' birth is incredible, but one of the most remarkable aspects is that Jesus came to us; he took on flesh and bones and descended to earth so that we may find and know peace. In verse 10, the angels had to tell the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," probably because seeing an angel for the first time would be terrifying. But, if we are honest with ourselves, can't we live lives that are easily swayed by our own worries, doubts, and fears? The Bible mentions the phrase "do not be afraid" 365 times, as if God is trying to tell us every single day not to live in fear, but rather live in peace.

Peace is a byproduct of perfection, but we may be looking for peace in all the wrong places, and instead of experiencing that peace, we are being given more fear. Doesn't that feel familiar for this time of year? Statistically, we feel more fear, stress, and anxiety around this time of year than any other. That's not what Christmas is about; it's about how peace came down to us and also offered us peace in all circumstances.

In what ways do you personally experience a need for peace during the Christmas season?

How does the cultural celebration of Christmas contribute to or distract from experiencing inner peace?

M O V E

Read Isaiah 9:6

Jesus is often referred to as the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). How does understanding Jesus in this way impact your perspective on peace during Christmas?

In our faith, we believe Jesus is God, and that God came down as a baby to bring us good news. A part of that good news is the gift of peace. Isaiah calls him the Prince of Peace, as peace came to us and offered himself fully for us to live in that peace. Doug gave us three points that focus on what peace means for us.

Peace is a Promise - This time of year serves as a reminder of a promise given to us. However, we can often live our lives in a way that makes that promise seem completely absent. Doug shared a recent revelation from God: "You don't need more FROM me; you need a deeper revelation about what you already have IN me." Many of us can relate to this, as perhaps God is trying to tell us that the things we have been searching for are actually something He has already given us as a promise of peace.

Peace is a Path - In Luke 1:77-79, it states, "...to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the

rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the path of Peace." Notice how that verse doesn't say "in the path TO Peace"; instead, it says "of" peace because we have been given peace, and all we need to do is walk it out.

Peace is a Practice - Practice makes perfect, getting better and better continually, making it easier with practice. Peace can sometimes be like a household with a piano that nobody plays or practices; it just sits there. Similarly, we have peace in our hearts, but we often fail to put it into practice within our lives.

Can you share a time when you felt distant from God's promises of peace, and how did you navigate through that?

Reflecting on Doug's statement, "You don't need more FROM me, you need a deeper revelation about what you already have IN me," how can we deepen our understanding of the peace God has promised us?

How do you differentiate between seeking peace and walking in the peace that has already been given to us?

Share practical ways you can as individuals and as a group practice peace in your daily lives. What intentional steps can you take to make peace a consistent practice?

P R A Y

Take some time to go around the room and share a few prayer requests with the Group and then spend some time praying for those prayer requests by assigning a different person a specific prayer request.