



More Peace This Christmas | Ryan Wekenman | 12.13-14

Weekly Study

SHARE

We're in the first week of *More This Christmas*, a series that closes out the year of *More*. As we close out the year, we refocus on what this whole thing is all about, Jesus. December can feel crazy until we remember what really matters: the arrival of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The question Ryan brought to our attention this week is: ***Is it possible to spend all of December at peace?***

This message brings to light how the Christmas season often comes with a lot of chaos. The word *peace* doesn't seem to be used much around Christmas anymore; instead, the word is *pressure*. Pressure to be around family, pressure to go to every party, pressure to be everywhere, it can all feel overwhelming. When we really zoom in on the Christmas story, it was anything but peaceful. So if you feel like you're having a crazy Christmas, it doesn't mean you're doing Christmas wrong. The question is: ***how can you refocus your mind this season to who brings you peace rather than what brings you peace this season?***

☐ How do you find peace when you're feeling overwhelmed?

GROW

Read Matthew 1:18-23

☐ What pattern of peace do you notice in the chaos of the Christmas story?

- ☐ **Why do you think it was important that Matthew emphasized that Jesus is the Messiah in verse 18?**

Matthew starts the New Testament with one of the most significant assertions about Jesus. He doesn't say *Jesus the good teacher* or *Jesus the prophet*, he asserts ***Jesus the Messiah***. The promise of the Messiah has existed since Genesis 3, and generations had passed since God promised Abraham that the Messiah would come through his line. There were times when people thought the Messiah had come, but this is the moment the entire Old Testament was pointing to. The Savior of the world is here.

- ☐ **How can you find peace in the truth about who Jesus is?**

Ryan emphasized three points that highlight where we can find peace in the Christmas story: **Peace with God, Peace with limitations, and Peace with Here.**

There are two layers in Matthew 1 that help us find peace in Jesus. One, Jesus stepped out of heaven to become a baby, the God of the universe limited himself to human form. Because of this, we can be okay with our own limitations. The second layer is that Jesus didn't just bring peace; **HE IS PEACE**. Peace isn't found in a place, a promotion, or a performance. Peace is a person, and His name is Jesus.

- ☐ **How does knowing that God limited Himself to becoming a baby affect how you view your own limitations?**
- ☐ **Which area of peace that Ryan highlighted do you need to grow in most right now?**

MOVE

Read Romans 5:1, Philippians 2:5-8

Paul asserts in his letter to the Romans the foundation of our peace with God and explains that it comes through Jesus. How can we bring peace back into this season? By being okay with saying no, and being okay with others saying no as well. Philippians gives us insight into how to live this out during Christmas. If you're willing to die to the part of yourself that wants to be a people-pleaser, you may find more peace this year. If you try to keep everyone happy all the time, you'll ultimately let everyone down.

- ☐ **How can you bring peace back into your life this Christmas?**
- ☐ **How can you find peace in saying no?**

- ☐ **How can you change your mindset from pursuing peace as a thing, and instead pursuing it as a person?**

P R A Y

This week, come together and pray about the areas of your life where you need peace. If this season brings up grief or hurt, share that with your group and pray together. We are in this together, and we can remind one another where our peace truly comes from.