



THE CHOSEN

— A CHRISTMAS SERIES —



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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ICEBREAKER

Have you ever felt left out, ignored, or overlooked? (Examples: Maybe you were the last one picked for a team, left off a group text, overlooked at work, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate Christmas, it reminds us of the **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love** that Jesus brings. This week, we're diving into **peace**. Jesus came to bring peace to our souls, even when the world is in chaos.

READ |

"That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them... They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.'"
— Luke 2:8-10 (NLT)

The shepherds were society's bottom rung—poor, dirty, uneducated, even banned from temple worship for being “unclean.” In Jewish law, their testimony wasn't even trusted in court. Yet heaven chose *them* to hear the greatest news in history. The angels didn't visit kings or priests, but rather the ones "invisible" to the world. God doesn't look at status; He looks at hearts. And that includes the rejected, the forgotten, and the overlooked.

If you knew deep down that God already sees and chooses you, how might that change the way you live or think about yourself? (Examples: stop trying so hard to earn love, or chasing a career or purpose for fulfillment, etc.)

READ |

When Jesus heard this, He said, “Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.”
— Matthew 9:12 (NLT)

One scene in *The Chosen* shows a disabled shepherd rejected by a religious leader who says, “Because of people like you, the Messiah has not come.” That cruel line reflects a real belief of the time, that physical flaws were often seen as signs of sin (see John 9:1–2). But the good news of Jesus' birth turns that thinking upside down: Jesus didn't come to reject the broken, but to redeem them. The angels' message wasn't “Peace to the perfect,” but “*Peace to all people.*”

What “flaw” in your life do you think might disqualify you, or make you feel like you’re not enough? How might Jesus be using it to draw you closer to Him?

READ I

When the shepherds met Jesus, they didn’t just meet a baby—they met the beginning of God’s rescue plan. The angels declared peace on earth, but that peace would come at a great cost. The baby in the manger would one day hang on a cross. *“By His wounds we are healed”* (Isaiah 53:5). The Prince of Peace came not just to soothe our hearts, but to save our souls. He still reminds us today, “It is finished—you are forgiven, you are free, you are mine.”

Where in your life could you use more of Jesus’ peace and/or freedom? (*Examples: during the busyness of the holiday season; peace in a relationship where forgiveness is needed, etc.*)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Consider what areas of your life or people in your life who need more of Jesus’ peace. Dedicate to pray over them this week.
- Ask a close friend or small group member to pray with you as well.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear Jesus, our Prince of Peace, thank You for bringing real peace into our world and into our hearts. When life feels heavy or we feel overlooked, remind us that Your love has already made things right between us and God. Help us to rest in that love, to live with peace inside, and to share it with those around us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

MAKE TIME TO BE IN GOD'S WORD

Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, and share what God is teaching you on a personal level. One helpful method is using the "S.O.A.P." approach to engage with each scripture:

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

Day 1: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
—**Luke 2:14 (NLT)**

Day 2: "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."
—**Romans 5:1 (NLT)**

Day 3: "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"
—**Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)**

Day 4: "For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."
— **Colossians 1:19–20 (NLT)**

Day 5: "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." —**John 14:27 (NLT)**

ICEBREAKER

What's something small that brought you joy recently? (Examples: a good cup of coffee, a moment of laughter with a friend, seeing a beautiful sunrise, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

If Jesus' birth was "*good news of great joy*," then joy isn't optional, it's our inheritance. As we celebrate the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we're reminded that the coming of Jesus allows us to turn away from sadness and toward joy. Because of what happened on that holy night, we can now live a joy-filled life, even in a joyless world.

READ |

"The angel reassured them, 'Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people... Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'"
— Luke 2:10, 14 (NLT)

Joy isn't the same as happiness. Happiness depends on your circumstances, but **joy depends on Who is present**. The Bible's word for "joy" (*chara* in Greek) shares a root with *charis* (grace). That means **joy flows from grace**—from knowing that we're deeply loved, completely forgiven, and never alone.

Have you experienced this kind of joy before—even in a tough season?

(Examples: peace during heartbreak, laughter in grief, strength when you were exhausted, etc.)

READ |

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"
— John 15:11 (NLT)

We scroll through bad news, hear neighbors arguing, and live in a culture addicted to outrage. Even as believers, we can get cynical, tired, or numb. But here's the truth: joyless faith misrepresents a joyful Savior. When joy disappears, so does our ability to see what God is doing. Cynicism is easy, but real joy flows from Jesus—the kind of joy that doesn't depend on circumstances, only on His presence within us.

Where do you see joy missing? In your workplace, relationships, or even your faith? *(Examples: quick to complain, hard to celebrate others, constant stress, etc.)*

READ |

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” — Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

Joy is a weapon of spiritual warfare. It keeps your spirit strong when circumstances try to crush it. In the early church, believers would sing hymns even in prison. Their joy was confidence in the risen Jesus, a bold reminder that His light always has the final word over darkness. This doesn't mean we ignore pain or grief, but that joy strengthens us to face challenges and reflect Jesus' light even in dark times.

Where could you bring joy to a person or circumstance this week? (Examples: a kind word to a grumpy coworker, gratitude in a stressful moment, encouragement to a struggling friend, etc.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Ask Jesus to show you where in your life (or others' lives) you can pray for more joy.
- This week, select one person in your life to pray for, and to boldly invite to Christmas services! Share with your group who you'll be praying for & inviting.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the Joy of the world. When life feels dark, remind us that You are still our light. When we feel drained, let Your joy be our strength. Help us live joyfully in a joyless world, not because life is perfect, but because *You are present*. In Your precious name we pray, amen.



NEW HOPE WINDWARD

Christmas

AT NEW HOPE WINDWARD

DECEMBER 20 (SAT)
ANCHOR CHURCH (KANEHOE)
6:00PM

DECEMBER 21 (SUN)
REGAL CINEMAS (KANEHOE)
7AM | 8:30AM | 10AM

OFFERED AT ALL SERVICES:
KID ZONE (6 WEEKS-5TH GRADE)
YOUTH SERVICES (6-12TH GRADES)

CHRISTMAS ONLINE SERVICES
NHWW.ORG DEC 21 (SUN): 8:30AM | 10:30AM

 MORE INFO

DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

Day 1: “You have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.”
— **John 16:22 (NLT)**

Day 2: “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

— **1 Peter 1:8–9 (NIV)**

Day 3: “... yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!”

— **Habakkuk 3:18 (NLT)**

Day 4: “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”

— **Philippians 4:4 (NLT)**

Day 5: “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.”

— **Romans 15:13 (NLT)**

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite thing to share about with others? (*Examples: your favorite restaurant, a really good sale or bargain, a fun experience you had, etc.*)

INTRODUCTION

Christmas reminds us that God's love isn't meant to stay in one place, but to go to the far corners of the earth. On the night Jesus was born, the shepherds didn't just receive the news—they *ran* to share it, and spread the light and joy of their Savior's birth. A light that is hidden cannot brighten a dark world. If we have experienced Jesus' love and peace, shouldn't we also share His light with others?

READ I

"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." — Luke 2:17–18 (NIV)

The shepherds were the first to tell the world about Jesus, even though they were ordinary, overlooked, and often seen as "unclean." It's as if God was saying: "If you think you're too ordinary for My story, think again." God's love lifts the lowly and sends the willing. The shepherds didn't wait to feel qualified; they were so moved by the Good News that they just went.

When has God used someone "unexpected" to reach you with His love? (*Example: a stranger's kindness, the prayer of a child, etc.*)

READ I

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."
— John 15:9 (NIV)

In ancient Jewish weddings, the groom would go to prepare a home for his bride, then return to bring her home. When Jesus said, "*I go to prepare a place for you*" (John 14:2), He was using wedding language, showing that His love isn't passive but pursuing. If Jesus is our example of love, we're called to love others with that same pursuing, selfless love. Jesus didn't wait for us to get it all together; He chose to love and pursue us even in our sin.

Where is it hardest for you to love others right now? And how does Jesus' example of love encourage you to love even when they don't deserve it? (*Examples: choosing to extend grace to people who disappoint you, or serving when you feel drained, etc.*)

READ I

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
— Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

Jesus' overflowing love cannot be contained. It always *moves outward*, beginning with those closest to us, then like a ripple, impacts families and communities we may never meet. All it takes is the choice to love beyond ourselves and shine Jesus' light for those experiencing darkness.

Who in your life needs love this week? And how can you go to them in love?

(Examples: a misunderstood family member, a difficult coworker, your spouse or kids, someone who feels unseen, etc.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, make a conscious choice to "go" in love:

- Text encouragement to let someone know you're thinking of them.
- Do one act of kindness for someone who can't repay you.
- **Select at least one person in your life to pray for, and invite them to our Christmas services!**
- **Discuss with your Small Group when you will be meeting next, after this series.**

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to us when we couldn't come to You. Teach us to love like You—love that forgives freely and keeps going unconditionally. Show us who to reach this week with Your love. In Your name we pray, amen.

DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

Day 1: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
— **Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV)**

Day 2: “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
— **1 John 4:9–11 (NIV)**

Day 3: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? ... And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”
— **Romans 10:14–15 (NIV)**

Day 4: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves... In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”
— **Philippians 2:3–5 (NIV)**

Day 5: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you... Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”
— **Isaiah 60:1–3 (NIV)**



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