

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 |

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)**