

# THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

## WEEK ONE: PEACE FOR ME

### CONNECT

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The prophet Isaiah refers to the Messiah as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). These words were of incredible comfort to a Jewish population living in conflict. Peace is what they desired, and the Messiah would bring it to them, and to us, though not in a manner anyone expected. In this series, The Best Christmas Ever, we'll look at how the Messiah that God sent to Israel brought peace in their time of conflict, but in our time of conflict as well.

- Who tried to keep the peace in your home growing up?
- Where do you go, or what do you do when you need a time of peace?

### DISCOVER

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#### Read Romans 5:1-2

*<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

- What does it mean to be "made right" (some translations use the word Justified) with God? How does that make you feel?
- How do we have "peace with God"? How were we at war, or in conflict?
- How difficult is it for you to grasp that we are made right with God "because of our faith" and nothing else? What are some things people try to add?
- What do you think "this place of undeserved privilege" is? How does it affect you?
- How can it be possible for us to "share God's Glory"?

## **GROW**

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**Big Idea: Faith in Christ makes you right with God, bringing true peace into your life.**

- What are some reasons people can't find peace with God?
- Do you have trouble believing you can have peace with God? why or why not?
- Besides peace with God, what do you struggle to let go of that is getting in the way of your ability to truly experience God's peace?
- Is it difficult for you to live the Christian life with confidence and joy? Why do you think that is?

## **NEXT STEPS**

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### **Read Philippians 4:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup>Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup>Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

- What did you say is getting in the way of your ability to truly experience God's peace? Follow the leading of this verse and:
  - Don't worry
  - Pray about it
  - Tell God what you need
  - Thank Him for all He's done.
- Which of these do you tend to do the least? Partner with someone in your Small Group this Week who will:
  - Pray for you
  - Connect this week to talk about how each of you are doing in your area of peace.