

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

WEEK TWO: PEACE FOR MY FAMILY

CONNECT

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 not only in their time of conflict, but in our time of conflict as well.

- What do you remember most about the town you grew up in? Describe it.
- What does clothes shopping look like for you? Do you tend to hunt for an object, or do you browse for the ideal?

DISCOVER

Read Matthew 5:3

¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

- What do you think it means for you to "clothe yourself" with the five virtues listed in verse twelve, and in love, as listed in verse fourteen?
- How can growing in these five virtues (tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience) help bring a greater peace to your family(v12)?
- Why is making allowances, and forgiving each other so important?
- Why does God call us to be peacemakers? Can peace come without Christ's love? Why or why not?

GROW

Big Idea: Jesus came to bring peace and to make us one

- Which of the five virtues (tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience) are you strongest in, and weakest?
- How are you at making allowances for the faults and offences of others? Are you quick to forgive, or do you bury things? What are you doing to grow in these areas?
- Who is the peacemaker in your family? If it isn't you, why do you think that is? What is it about that person that makes them the peacemaker?
- What can you do to help your family become united as "one body" as Jesus intended?

NEXT STEPS

Read Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then 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.

- When you experience God's peace:
 - It exceeds anything we can understand
 - It guards your heart
 - It guards your mind
- What is one step you will commit to taking this week to grow in the virtue you are weakest in?
- Pray for one another as you encourage each other to grow, and to share next week about what God did in your life in this area.