

# THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

## WEEK THREE: PEACE AT WORK

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

- What is the worst storm you have been through? What was that experience like?
- Who do people go to when things go wrong at work, and why?

### DISCOVER

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#### Read Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup>As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." <sup>36</sup>So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). <sup>37</sup>But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

<sup>38</sup>Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

<sup>39</sup>When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence (Peace)! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup>The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

- What do you notice about the different ways the disciples and Jesus responded to storm? How would you have responded?
- What question would you have asked Jesus if you found Him sleeping in the midst of this storm? How would you have felt to know that Jesus was sleeping?
- What is the significance of what Jesus did?
- How did the disciples' fear during the storm differ from their fear after?

## **GROW**

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### **Big Idea: When we trust Jesus, there is peace no matter the storm**

- How do you handle a crisis at work?
- What storms are you in the middle of, or are brewing, at work in which you need Jesus to bring peace?
- How do you think you could be used by God to calm others in the storms that will come, especially at work?
- What can you do to demonstrate your faith in Christ in the midst of storms at work?
- Is there a difference in the way you show your faith at home and at work? If so, why do you think that is? If not, what do you think helps you be consistent?

### **NEXT STEPS**

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- What step of faith can you take to have greater calm in the storms at work, and to be a source of calm for others? Examples:
  - Spend time daily with God in prayer and Bible study.
  - Pray for the Holy Spirit to transform you to be calm in storms, especially for others.
  - Pray for God's peace and for calm for your co-workers and supervisors.
  - Pray for your workplace, and for Jesus to calm the storms
  - Look for ways to connect with and to serve your co-workers and supervisors.
- Be sure that you look for, and take, the opportunity to introduce those you work with to the source of peace, Jesus (At break, lunch, after work, etc., and when they ask questions)! He is the only one who can calm the storm!