



24-7 SPACES

THE VISION IS JESUS

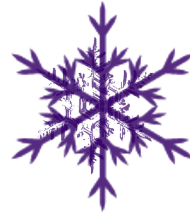
WEEK TWO:

THE PEACE OF JESUS

USE THIS DEEPER GUIDE ALONE,
WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS OR YOUR CHURCH
SMALL GROUP



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MATERIALS NEEDED

- A Bible
- The song “Peace on Earth” from the Album ‘All That You Can’t Leave Behind’ by U2



REFLECT:



The following Bible verses, quote and song are related to this week's theme: The Peace of Jesus. As you read them consider what they say about to us about peace.



Read: Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 2:13-14, John 16:33, Matthew 11:28-29, 1 Kings 19:9-13

Read: Father John Catoir recounts a story of St Francis...

St. Francis had a friend named Brother Leo. One day Leo was feeling down because he saw himself as weak, inadequate and miserable. St. Francis said to Brother Leo:



"The sadness of not being perfect is a feeling that is much too human, it can even border on idolatry. Focus your vision outside of yourself, on the beauty, graciousness and compassion of Jesus Christ. The pure of heart praise him from sunrise to sundown. Even when they feel broken, feeble, distracted, insecure and uncertain they are able to abide in his peace."

Listen to: 'Peace on Earth' from the Album 'All That You Can't Leave Behind' by U2 (Island Records 2000).

*Heaven on Earth
We need it now
I'm sick of all of this
Hanging around*

*Sick of sorrow
I'm sick of the pain
I'm sick of hearing
Again and again
That there's gonna be
Peace on Earth...*

*Jesus in the song you wrote
The words are sticking in my throat
Peace on Earth*

*Hear it every Christmas time
But hope and history won't rhyme
So what's it worth*

*This peace on Earth
Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth*





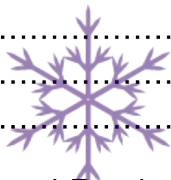
REACT:

(1) Jesus was born into the mess of the world and amongst it He brought peace on earth. Consider Bono's lyrics about a broken world and his plea for peace. What does Jesus' peace look like in a world that's searching for peace?.....

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(2) Read the story of St Francis and Brother Leo. What does it mean to focus on Christ even when our circumstances are difficult?

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(3) The shepherds, amongst the poor of their time, were the first to know about the birth of Jesus. They were often excluded, overlooked and unnoticed as they watched their flocks by night when everyone else slept. Yet they are the first to hear the good news. Who are the shepherds in your community? Who are the marginalized: the mentally ill, the drug addicted, or the homeless? Often Christmas is a difficult time for the monetarily poor, many are forced into debt. How can we include and help everyone this Christmas?

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(4) Reflect on the story of Elijah. Where are you looking for God but not finding Him. How will you make the time to listen to Him this Christmas?

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(5) Where do we run to for peace? What is the true peace that Christ offers? How will you make space for the peace of Jesus this Christmas?

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RESPOND:



Personal

Christmas can be a time of activity and busyness. Take some time to stop and reflect on what this season is really about. Walk slowly; create spaces for silence and rest. Perhaps God is waiting to speak to you like Elijah, in a whisper!

Write the verse John 16:33 on a card. Carry it around with you for a day and read it every time you have an opportunity. As you read this verse consider the troubles that you face. Ask God for His peace as he overcomes your world of troubles.

Practical



Walk slowly through busy shopping areas; take prayer requests from local businesses or people on the streets.

Create sacred spaces amongst the crowds, create a space for people to sit and rest in the shopping streets, maybe some seating and free cups of tea or coffee.

Prayerful



Look for where the presence of Jesus is around you; take some time to sit in your local coffee shop, where can you see Christ's presence? Look, listen... Pray for His peace in the lives of the people around you.

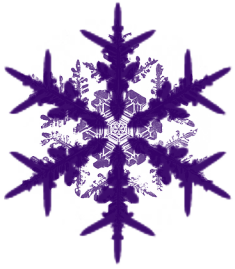
Use this Celtic Night Compline prayer this Christmas season:

*Circle me, Lord,
keep peace within;
keep evil out.*

*The peace of all peace
be mine this night
in the name of the Father
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*



NEXT WEEK...



“THE JOY OF JESUS”

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