



### Best Gift Ever 5 – Prince of Peace Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

#### Scripture:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end.  
Isaiah 9:6

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace on earth** to those with whom God is pleased."  
Luke 2:14

As [Jesus] came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand **the way to peace**. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.

<sup>43</sup> Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. <sup>44</sup> They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it **when God visited you**."  
Luke 19:41-44

#### Reflection Questions:

- In what area(s) of your life would you like to experience peace this week?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- We've been exploring the different names for Jesus that were prophesied in Isaiah 9:6. Read that verse out loud together. What stands out to you today? How has looking at these names over the past few weeks helped you understand Jesus more?
- In the message, Chip talked about the Hebrew word for peace: "Shalom" – indicating wholeness and completion. Where are some of the places in the world and in our community that need shalom (peace and wholeness)?

- What are some of the ways you try to bring peace – at home, at work, in your friendships? Does peace last? Why or why not?
- Read Luke 2:14. The message of peace is one that the angels declare when Jesus is born. Chip summarized the message this way, “Although we were God’s enemies, He has extended peace to us in Jesus.” How do you react to this promise?
- Chip talked about one of the moments in Scripture when Jesus cried. Read Luke 19:41-44. Why do you think Jesus cried loudly in this moment? What emotion do you imagine he experienced in that moment?
- God comes to us in ways we don’t expect. How have you seen this?
- Chip shared, “These are his gentle invitations. He’s inviting you into his way of peace with him...that you might receive him once again as Lord...and share him with a world longing for peace.” Which of these invitations do you want to act on this week?
- Take a moment to be quiet and then talk to God about how you want to pay attention for his arrival this week.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually during the Advent and Christmas seasons?

Visit [www.wschurch.org/advent](http://www.wschurch.org/advent).

#### Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **“Shalom” is the kind of peace that comes from being made whole.**
- **God’s preference is to turn enmity into friendship**, whenever possible.
- Isaiah 9:6 – “For a **child** is born to us, a **son** is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. His **government** and its **peace** will never end.”
- Luke 2:1 – “...the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.”
- Luke 2:6-7 – “And while they were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger [a feeding trough], because there was no lodging available for them.”
- Luke 2:14 – “Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace on earth** to those with whom God is pleased.”
- **Although we were God’s enemies, He has extended peace to us in Jesus.**