

## Christmas is for you: Part 1- PEACE

Luke 2:1-2, 8-14; Romans 5:1-2a; Ephesians 4:31-32

### I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/Discover-So what about.
- B. Me and Xmas- Loved it/love it... something missing though...
  - 1. Just not as magical as I remember.

### II. WE

- A. Some of us never got to experience the magic of xmas... family/religion/etc.
- B. Other of us remember the mystical beauty but have never been able to regain it
  - 1. Adult crap- Worry/stress/reality of the red suit guy/family scheduling/regular life still there
  - 2. Results??? - Scrooges... "ah xmas isn't for me... too commercialized.... Let's make it good for the kids..."
- C. What if we could recapture that early excitement... or experience it for the first time?
  - 1. What if xmas could live up to and even exceed the hype of the commercialization?
  - 2. What if Xmas could be magical again?
  - 3. It can... and it's simpler than you think...
  - 4. **Christmas is magical because Jesus is real.**
  - 5. I want to show you something in the original account of the first xmas...

### D. Luke 2:1-2

- 1. Historian
- 2. Real people/real places
- 3. Caesar Augustus 27BC-14AD
- 4. Quirinius- 6AD
- 5. Luke written around 60AD
- 6. Basically saying, "Remember when those guys were doing things and stuff about 50 or so years ago? That's when this happened."
- 7. Paraphrase Joseph and Mary trip and birth.

### E. Luke 2:8-14 (Highlight Peace in V. 14)

- 1. \*Town of David- Remember????
- 2. \*Angels??? Why not? Jesus did
- 3. Peace?
- 4. This baby will bring peace on earth?
- 5. Rome in charge/revolt brewing b/c of census
- 6. Yeah but after...
  - a. Medieval World- Peace?
  - b. Conquest and colonization- Peace?
  - c. World Wars/Atomic Bombs- Peace?

### F. You? Peace?

- 1. Have you experienced much peace lately?
- 2. Politics/Job stress/relationships/kids/money?
- 3. But according to these angels God gave us xmas to bring peace?
- 4. Then why do I still lay awake at 3:00 am worrying about the budget?
- 5. Jesus might be a real historical figure but this peace thing?
- 6. Maybe we're missing something... maybe there's something bigger going on... maybe it's a greater kind of peace...
- 7. What the angels were singing about was peace with God.

## G. 5 Finger Gospel

### H. Peace with God is the result of trusting Jesus.

I. The Apostle Paul explains the result...

## III. GOD (Romans 5:1-2a ...now stand.)

### Peace with God allows us to have peace ...

#### A. V. 1-2a

1. Peace **with our past.**
  - a. **"THEREFORE"**--- Since we have been forgiven/justified through faith-
  - b. **Justified**= Just-as-if-I'd never sinned
2. Peace **in our present**
  - a. **"HAVE** gained access/in which we **NOW** stand." = **PRESENT REALITY.**
  - b. If you trust Jesus You can have peace knowing you are 100% good with God
  - c. No worrying about good outweighing bad/no crippling guilt/ no fear from what life can throw at you...
  - d. You don't have to prove anything...
  - e. B/c you know ultimately... God is on your side... you **STAND** firm in His love.
3. Peace **with our future**
  - a. There is nothing that you can do to make God love you less.
  - b. There is nothing coming that He doesn't already know about and have a plan for.
  - c. More next week.

B. But there's more...

1. **Peace with God paves the way for peace with others.**
2. When you know how much God loves you and has done for you... His Spirit comes and lives in you and you are able to then show that same love to others. B/c he is loving them through you...

#### C. Ephesians 4:31-32a (each other)

1. Got it! Be nice... Be nice to others so God will be happy with you...
2. NO... LOVE others b/c God IS ALREADY happy with you...

#### D. Eph 4:32b-5:1-2

1. **God's gifts are meant to be re-gifted.**
2. When the peace of God transforms you, He empowers you to transform your relationships.
3. B/c His Spirit lives in you...
4. You begin to see people with God's eyes... and love them through His love.
5. You forgive b/c hey you've been forgiven too.
6. You seek the best for others b/c you know God is seeking the best for you.
7. You don't see yourself as better or worse than anyone else b/c you are all equally loved by God and equally important to Him
  - a. No room for racism/sexism/greed
  - b. **Galatians 3:26-28**
  - c. Centuries before Declaration of Independence or Emancipation Proclamation or Civil Acts Movement

#### IV. YOU

A. So what can we do to experience the true beauty and magic of xmas?

1. As easy as ABC

#### B. ACCEPT

1. Accept Jesus' forgiveness and peace... **OR**
2. Accept that you HAVE His peace and STAND in it... **OR**
3. Accept that **it's possible** Jesus was a real person and that this whole thing MIGHT be true.

#### C. BESTOW

1. Bestow/Give peace to others
2. Let God love other's through you.
3. Don't bite back
4. Do the dishes
5. Get off your phone and play a game or do a puzzle
6. Be **FOR** your family and neighbors

#### D. COME BACK

1. To discover how Christmas is for your Hope and Joy.

#### V. WE

A. What would your family be like this year if there were more peace in your relationships?

B. What would it be like to be able to describe your xmas/your family/your life as peaceful?

C. It truly can be that way through God's gift of peace... given through the real person Jesus Christ.

**D. Experience the true magic of Christmas. Accept the peace of God**

Christmas is for you: Part 1- PEACE

Luke 2:1-2, 8-14; Romans 5:1-2a; Ephesians 4:31-32

blank

Christmas is magical because Jesus is real.

Luke 2:1-2

Luke 2:8-14 (Highlight Peace in V. 14)

blank

Peace with God is the result of trusting Jesus.

Romans 5:1-2a ...now stand.

Peace with God allows us to have peace ...

V. 1-2a

Peace with our past.

Peace in our present

Peace with our future

Peace with God paves the way for peace with others.

Ephesians 4:31-32a (each other)

Eph 4:32b-5:1-2

God's gifts are meant to be re-gifted.

blank

Galatians 3:26-28

blank

ABC:

**ACCEPT**

**BESTOW**

**COME BACK**

blank

Experience the true magic of Christmas. Accept the peace of God

### QUESTION IDEAS:

In only three words describe how you feel about Christmas.

Or What three words would you use to describe Christmas?

On a scale between Switzerland and North Korea how peaceful would you say your life is right now?

Re-Read Romans 5:1-2 and then focus on John 14:27

- Where do you need to accept Jesus' peace? With God? With others? Or with your past, present or future?

What are some specific ways you can offer peace to specific people this Christmas season?

### Fill ins

Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ with God is the result of \_\_\_\_\_.

Peace with God allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ ...

Peace with \_\_\_\_\_

Peace in \_\_\_\_\_

Peace with \_\_\_\_\_

Peace with God \_\_\_\_\_ for peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ are meant to be \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

Experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas. \_\_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of God