



Life Group
Discussion
Guide
Advent
Week Two
12/07/25

Sermon Summary: Pastor Elisabeth Lectka focuses on the theme of peace during the Advent season, using Rich Velodas' devotional "Waiting for Jesus" as a guide. She reflects on the mixed emotions that often accompany the holiday season, such as anxiety, grief, and the longing for peace. Advent is portrayed as a time when the church acknowledges the darkness in the world and proclaims the hope and peace brought by Jesus Christ. In the sermon, Pastor Elisabeth emphasizes the biblical concept of peace, or "shalom," which is more than the absence of conflict; it is a state of wholeness, completeness, and justice. Shalom is both a description of God's perfect creation and an action to restore what is broken. She highlights how Jesus, the Prince of Peace, embodies and restores shalom through His life, death, and resurrection. The sermon calls us as Christians to be peacemakers, reflecting the peace of Christ in the world. Peacemaking is described as an active, courageous, and sometimes costly endeavor that involves working with the Spirit to expand shalom. She encourages the congregation to engage in peacemaking in their daily lives, following the example of Jesus and figures like Saint Francis of Assisi. The sermon concludes with a prayer by Saint Francis, asking God to make us instruments of His peace, and a call to embody heaven's shalom in our broken world. The message is a reminder that while we wait for the fullness of God's peace, we are called to actively participate in bringing about His kingdom on earth.

Conversation Starter: The Christmas season can be both joyful and stressful. What is one tradition or practice you have that helps you find peace during this time?

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to Your word, Your truth, and Your direction. Amen!

Read Scripture together: Isaiah 53:5, Luke 2:8-14

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- What does the biblical concept of "shalom" mean to you, and how does it differ from the common understanding of peace?
- How can we actively participate in bringing about shalom in our communities and personal relationships?
- The sermon mentions that Jesus is the source of real peace. How can we prioritize spending time with Jesus to receive this peace in our daily lives?
- Reflect on a time when you experienced God's peace in a difficult situation. How did it change your perspective or actions?
- In what ways can we be peacemakers in our everyday interactions, especially during the holiday season?
- How does understanding the end of God's story, as one of ultimate peace and restoration, influence how we live in the present?
- What are some practical steps we can take to identify and address areas where shalom is missing in our world?
- Discuss the role of suffering in the process of peacemaking, as mentioned in the sermon. How can we find hope in the midst of this suffering?
- Reflect on the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi shared in the sermon. How can we incorporate its principles into our daily prayers and actions?

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5b

"The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for the time we've spent together in reflection and discussion. We thank You for the gift of Your peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Lord, as we leave this gathering, we ask that You fill us with Your Spirit, empowering us to be peacemakers in our homes, communities, and the world. Help us and show us how to carry the message of shalom into every interaction. Guide us in the days ahead to seek Your presence and draw near to You, the true source of peace. May we be instruments of Your peace, sowing love where there is hatred, hope where there is despair, and light where there is darkness. We lift up to You the burdens and joys shared in our discussion, trusting in Your perfect will and timing. May we continue to support and encourage one another as we walk this journey of faith together. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.