

Small Group Bible Study

Empty Boxes Week 2: Peace

Main Theme

This week Pastor Aaron taught on the Advent theme of peace by looking at Luke 2 and Isaiah 9. We learned that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, but His definition of peace is often different from what we expect. Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the wholeness and completeness only Jesus can give.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being the Prince of Peace. Quiet the noise in our hearts and lead us into the kind of peace that only You can give. Help us see where we have been looking for peace in the wrong places and help us anchor our hearts in You. Amen.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION *choose one*

- What is the funniest or most random gift you ever opened on Christmas morning?
- If peace came wrapped like a present, what would the box look like in your life this week?
- What is the most chaotic Christmas story you have lived through?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Read: Luke 2:8–14

- What stands out to you about the setting of this moment in Luke 2?
- Why do you think God chose to announce the arrival of the Messiah to shepherds first?
- When the angel says “peace on earth,” what kind of peace do you think the shepherds expected?
- How is the peace Jesus brings different from the peace we often look for during the Christmas season?
- What part of this announcement connects personally to you today?

2. Read: Isaiah 9:6

- Which title for Jesus in this verse speaks to your heart the most right now and why?
- When you hear the title “Prince of Peace,” what came to mind before this sermon?
- Based on the Hebrew meaning of shalom (wholeness, completeness), how does this shift your understanding of peace?
- Where do you sense Jesus inviting you into wholeness instead of temporary calm?

3. Read: Matthew 24:4–11

- How does this passage challenge a surface-level understanding of peace?
- What does Jesus want His followers to understand about the world we live in?
- How does this affect the way you think about His promise of peace?
- What does it look like to remain anchored in Christ even when the world does not feel peaceful?

Scripture 4: Peace Defined (Hebrew and Greek)

Isaiah 9:6 – Shalom Luke 2:14 – Eirene

- How does the definition of shalom (wholeness, completeness) deepen your understanding of God’s peace?
- How does the definition of eirene (a soul assured of salvation and content regardless of circumstances) challenge the way you seek peace?
- Where are you settling for a counterfeit version of peace instead of the fullness Jesus offers?
- What would it look like to receive peace as something Jesus rules over instead of something you try to create?

SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS

- Which part of the message most challenged your view of peace?
- Where has your idea of peace become tied to circumstances instead of Jesus?
- What “empty box” have you been opening that cannot offer real peace?
- What part of Pastor Aaron’s teaching on shalom felt most personal to you?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Where do you need to invite Jesus to bring completeness and wholeness into your life?
- What would change if you embraced peace as something Jesus gives, not something you try to force?
- What is one practical way you can slow down this week to make space for the Prince of Peace?
- Who in your life needs to experience peace through your presence, your encouragement, or your prayers?

CLOSING PRAYER