

Christmas Gift Exchange Worry for Peace

Worry is all too common. We worry about health, finances, what people might think or say about us, etc. Sometimes worry prevents us from acting. We have good news. We should share it. The angels shared good news with the shepherds in Luke 2 and the shepherds shared that good news with others. The word “gospel” means good news. In ancient Israel, the prophet Isaiah declared that the good news involved Yahweh’s victory of evil and the rescue of His people. In ancient Rome, the good news was an announcement of an emperor’s ascension or birthday. Since the Christian good news involves the inbreaking of God’s kingdom as both the fulfillment of prophecy and a challenge to the world’s present rulers, the word ‘gospel’ became an important shorthand for both the message of Jesus Himself, and the apostolic message about Him.

Here’s the gospel: Good news! Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins and rose again for our justification according the Scriptures, is the true Lord of the world! When the gospel is preached, God calls people to salvation by His grace, leading to faith in Jesus. We heard the gospel. We came to believe the gospel. We placed our faith in Jesus. As His disciples, it is our responsibility to share the gospel message with others.

Topic: A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, abides in Jesus, and participates in the mission of Jesus. The mission of Jesus is to make disciples. This requires sharing the gospel. Jesus says in John 14:26-27 that “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

- Why do some believers worry about sharing the gospel?
- Why is sharing the gospel so important? (see Mark 13:10-11; Rom.1:16-17; Rom. 10:8-15).
- How can believers overcome their worries about sharing the gospel?
- How can believers better rely on the Holy Spirit and also better collaborate with the Holy Spirit?

Association: Each of us has heard the gospel.

- When did you first hear the gospel?
- When did you first come to believe the gospel?
- Who shared the gospel with you?
- With whom have you shared the gospel?
- What do you worry about when it comes to sharing the gospel?

Guidance: We’ve been doing discipleship with fellow believers. This will continue, but we will also start discipling those who are not yet believers. Share the gospel in your own words with one another. Share your testimony with one another. Pray for and with each other about having peace about sharing the gospel with others.