

the story

FOUND US

Pastor
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Date Published
DEC. 7th, 2025

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AS A PEOPLE LONGING FOR PEACE!

Peace; (*Hebrew*) Shalom: _____ .

God's Design for Shalom in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1-2):

Wholeness in our relationship with _____ .

MAIN IDEA: *Jesus, the Prince of Peace, fought for and won our peace.*

“ For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

~ EPHESIANS 6:12 (NIV)

See Also - Revelation 12:1-17

JESUS, THE PROMISED KING

“ ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace here will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

~ ISAIAH 9:2, 5-7a (NIV)

He shall be called:

1. Wonderful Counselor

Wonderful: Amazing, Miraculous, _____ .

Counselor: _____ , instructs and advices (see *John 14:26*).

To get the benefit of a counselor you have to _____ .

“ He who builds according to every man's advice will have a crooked house.”

- DANISH PROVERB

2. Mighty God

God is a Mighty _____ .

“The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.” *Exodus 15:3* (NIV)

Jesus as Mighty God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” *John 1:1* (NIV)

“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” *Colossians 1:16-17* (NIV)

3. Everlasting Father

God the Everlasting Father Compared to Four Types of Dysfunctional Dads

• The _____ Dad.

“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you, in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

~ ZEPHANIAH 3:17 (NIV)

• The _____ Dad.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

~ LUKE 15:20b (NIV)

• The _____ Dad.

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ~ HEBREWS 13:5b (NIV)

• The _____ Dad.

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,” ~ EXODUS 34:6b (NIV)

4. The Prince of Peace

The Promise of the Angels

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will **toward men.**” ~ LUKE 2:14 (KING JAMES VERSION)

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those **on whom his favor rests.**” ~ LUKE 2:14 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with **whom he is pleased!**” ~ LUKE 2:14 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |     Google TV

1 - Describe your perfect “Christmas peace” Contrast the “Hallmark-movie” idea of peace with the biblical concept of shalom. When you think of “Christmas peace,” which version comes to mind first? Why do you think that is?

2 - Revelation 12 reveals the spiritual war behind the Christmas story. How does seeing Christmas as part of a spiritual battle change the way you understand Jesus’ birth and the kind of peace He brings?

3 - We often hear Jesus’ counsel but don’t always follow it. Where do you most struggle to trust and obey Jesus’ counsel right now? How might obedience in that area lead to deeper peace?

4 - Jesus is both fully human and fully God—close enough to touch, strong enough to trust. Which part of “Mighty God” do you need most right now—His strength to hold things together, or His power to rescue you from something? Why?

5 - Many people have challenges with their earthly father. Which aspect of the Everlasting Father—His delight, His nearness, His protection, or His patience—brings you the most comfort? How does this reshape your view of God?

6 - Often we want Jesus’ peace without submitting to Him as King. What is one practical area of life where Jesus is inviting you to let Him be “Prince”—to reign—so He can bring His peace there?

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


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