

**Morning Star Church**  
**Small Group Study Guide**  
**C2 Christmas, Session 3: Peace**  
**December 12-13, 2009**

**Message Synopsis:** Pastor Mike continued our C2 Christmas messages this week, talking about peace. With just a few days left till Christmas, our world knows very little about peace! Rushing about trying to find the right gifts, at the right price, within a 30 minute window of opportunity is hardly any peace. The chaos of activities, the hardship of financial pressure, stress from relationships, more and more job insecurity, on and on, it is all not about peace. As Pastor Mike taught, peace is not about the absence of chaos, it is all about the presence of God in our lives! Perhaps we can discover this year to have peace is learning to trust the Peace of Peace!

*This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. "So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us." After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.*

Matthew 1:18-24, CEV

**Additional passages to consider:** Isaiah 9:6-7; John 14:27; Philippians 4:7

**Questions for your small group to consider:**

1. As Pastor Mike showed us, Joseph had to face some difficult decisions about believing in something he did not understand. And he had to continue to trust God that God would provide all he needed. So as your group processes this truth answer this question, how difficult has it been in your life to trust God and cooperate with His plan even when you don't understand it?
2. If peace is *learning to trust God, yield over to God*, what things do people need to turn over to God that is causing them to miss His peace?
3. In your experience, what areas of life rob you of peace?
4. How can your group pray for you in these areas?

**Prayer Requests**

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**C2 Christmas, Session 3: Peace Sermon Notes**  
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**Culture's Christmas**

Culture's Peace is about removing something.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*  
(Jesus, John 14:27)

Peace isn't the absence of chaos or conflict,  
but trusting in the sovereignty of God.

"Sovereignty": supreme authority over all things

*This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

*Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25)*

**Receiving Peace**

God is sovereign in my life when I  
not only believe in God but also believe God.

(Apostle Paul, Philippians 4:6-7)

(Apostle Paul, Romans 5:1-2)

***For further devotional study ...***

December 14 Isaiah 26:3

December 15 Psalm 4

December 16 Psalm 29

December 17 Isaiah 48:18

December 18 Philippians 4:7-9

December 19 Isaiah 9:6-7

December 20 John 14:27