

Peace On Earth
Week 1: Luke 2:8-11

Luke 2:14 (NLT) “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

What do we fear?

We fear the _____

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

We fear the _____

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

We fear the _____

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6 (NLT) Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever...The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Why Peace?

Peace and fear are _____

John 14:27 (NLT) “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

Peace from God brings _____

Luke 2:10 (NLT) but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

**Final Thought: _____
(NLT) Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**

Christmas Week 1 Discussion Questions:

What is your favorite part of the Christmas season? Explain. What is your most memorable Christmas and why?

What are some of your fears? Which of the three common fears do you most identify with? What fears do you carry regarding your faith or God? How can the peace that Jesus brings counteract those fears? What verses encourage you or keep your mind on God instead of those fears?

Read Isaiah 9:1-7. This is foretelling messianic prophecy. If this was the only description of the messiah you had heard, and not knowing anything about Jesus, what would be your expectations of the messiah? How do those expectations match what you know about Jesus? When has God acted in a way that was completely against your preconceived expectations? Explain. Did the situation turn out good? Why or why not?

Read Luke 2:1-20. This is the entire account, as described by Luke, on the day/night Jesus was born. What is missing in this story that is always a part of the popular Christmas story? Why are there differences? Explain.

Compare the prophecy from Isaiah and the birth story in Luke. Does it seem like they are referencing the same person? Why or why not? What are some ways that Jesus did fulfill these prophecies? What principle can we learn from this? How will that principle help you move forward on your faith journey? Explain.