

Peace On Earth
Week 2: Luke 2:11-12

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

What does the sign say?

The manger is a sign of _____.

John 1:14 (NLT) So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

The manger is a sign of God’s heart for _____.

John 3:16 (NLT) “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

What does the sign of our life say?

Our lives should be a sign of _____

Ephesians 2:13, 17-18 (NLT) But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ... He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Our lives should be a sign of _____

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23 (NLT) I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions....But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

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.”

Final Thought: Jesus in the manger was a sign of what God values. Is your life a sign of _____?

Peace on Earth week 2 Discussion Questions:

Mary and Joseph likely felt like placing Jesus in a manger was a bad thing, a failure in the first moments as parents. How different would the Christmas story be without the manger? Have you ever experienced a situation in your life that first felt like a failure but you later realized it as a blessing? Explain. The manger was a sign for many things. What else is the manger a sign for other than those presented in the message? Explain.

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Describe in your own words how this passage expands on reconciliation and transformation in our lives. How many times in this passage is the word “peace” used? Why is this significant? What other principles does Paul present to aid in our journey?

Think of someone's faith you admire, or has helped you in your journey, or taught you about God. What "signs" do you see in their life that points you to Jesus? Explain. What sign would best represent your life right now? What sign do you want to best represent your life? If they are different, what steps can you take this next week, or this Christmas season, to help them match. (you could literally make signs, or cardboard testimonies, or something like that)

If someone just watched your life, could they come up with the core values of your life and faith? Why or why not? In what ways do you see Oregon Trail living up to our core values? How can we do better? How can you personally help us do better?