

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

WEEK 2
Peace

Connect Group Members to Each Other

Of the four gifts we're "unwrapping" in this series (**Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**), which one do you feel most in need of? Which do you feel you have the most of to give to others?

As a group, see how many Christmas carols you can come up with that have the word **peace** in their lyrics.

Connect Group Members to God

In Micah 5:2-5, we learn that out of the seemingly insignificant town of Bethlehem will come a ruler whose "greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah personifies him as peace, and, of course, we know this person is Jesus. When he comes, his people "will live securely."

What does it say about God's character that he chose a town like Bethlehem to be the birthplace of the world's savior?

Have you ever experienced insecurity related to finances, a relationship, or a living situation? How did it affect your sense of peace?

We learn from the message that True Peace cannot be fabricated. It's a gift we need to accept.

How do we try to fabricate peace in our life? What would it look like just to accept it?

Apply the Teaching

Winston Churchill once said, "Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection." As the prime minister of England during World War II, he certainly knew what it was like to long for peace. As wars, famines, instability and strife continue to affect our world today, reflect on how God's peace can be found in the chaos around us. At a time in your life when everything seemed bleak, how did God give you peace?

Close your group time with the "Prayer of St. Francis" and answer the question below.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

How can I be an instrument of peace to others this week?



CHRISTMAS
UNWRAPPED