



Week 2

The Candle of Peace for Advent

The peace of God allows us to look at others through heaven's eyes and help guide the world to see God's here and not-yet here kingdom. Peace from God, biblical peace, allows us to trust in God's promises (*Proverbs 3:5*), through restful, tranquil faith, despite the dark, scary world around us.

What Is the Candle of Peace?

One of the hallmarks of the Christmas story is when the angels appear to the shepherds and proclaim, "Peace on earth," in (*Luke 2:14*). Jesus brought about peace, in the most unexpected ways, when he arrived. The Jews, particularly the zealots, wanted a rebellion. They wanted their Savior to overturn the oppressive rule of the Romans and bring about peace in a violent way. But Jesus had something else in mind. Jesus brings us peace in a number of ways. First, he gives us inner peace. Because of his work on the cross, we have a chance to receive salvation and be indwelled by the Holy Spirit. This grants us an inner peace *John 14:27*. Not only do we have the peace that comes from our assurance of salvation, but we also have the peace of mind knowing God will heal this broken world and will come again.

Second, we have peace with others. We put aside our differences *Galatians 3:28*, especially with other believers, because we belong to the same family. We have the same purpose: to let others know about the peace of Christ. The Hebrew word for peace: *Shalom*, goes far beyond not fighting with others or peace as we know it. *Shalom* is, in essence, how things are meant to be: a slice of heaven. The peace of God allows us to look at others through heaven's eyes and help guide the world to see God's here and not-yet here kingdom. Peace

from God, biblical peace, allows us to trust in God's promises *Proverbs 3:5*, through restful, tranquil faith, despite the dark, scary world around us.

What Does the Bible Say about Peace?

Not surprisingly, the Bible has a lot to say about peace, as it attributes peace to Jesus himself: the Prince of Peace *Isaiah 9:6*. In fact, the word peace appears somewhere between 200-400 times in the Bible. In addition to the items listed above, biblical peace:

- Guards our hearts from the devil *Philippians 4:7*
- Brings us joy *Proverbs 12:20*
- Is a blessing from God *Psalms 29:11*
- Assists us during dire circumstances *Isaiah 54:10*

The peace of God grants us a tranquility you cannot find anywhere else and offers a light to others who do not yet know that peace.

Why Does This Matter?

We live in an eye-for-an-eye, revenge culture. We also live in scary times. But the peace of God transcends our circumstances and world. With this, we can be rest assured that he will come and make everything right once more. Our peace can also stir the curiosity of those who do not believe in Christ. They will see us exercise a spirit of tranquility, faith, and they will want to know the reason for our faith in shaky times.

When they ask, we can have a reason at the ready. "I am not afraid because I have the peace of Christ."



My Prayer...

Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent causes us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos.

Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes understanding. That first Christmas, when you sent your Son, you sent the one who is called Wonderful

Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Even the angels cried out, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." The angels knew your purpose. They know the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas held. They recognized that the fullness of God was wrapped in the tiny flesh of an infant as you humbled yourself and dwelt among us. Emmanuel. God with us as the baby Jesus.

Father, this second week of Advent, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer. It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



Song of the Week...

Matthew West's song "Unto Us" is about the birth of Jesus and the gift of the Savior, and is intended to remind listeners of the true meaning of Christmas. West says he wrote the song for the church, and hopes that it will inspire people to celebrate the gift of Jesus with a fresh spirit.

<https://youtu.be/zfIcq6KF9e4?si=UigrqKx24pUiYsEZ>

<https://youtu.be/5-JVZ9KMnOs?si=BgNhZc9r2k68RffT>



Free Advent Christmas Coloring

Coloring pages at your fingertips. Click on the link below and download free Advent and Christmas coloring pages to keep your little ones busy and creative during these colorful times...

<https://www.googlece=univ&tbm=isch&q=free+advent+colouring+pages&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiEktqR37XtAhW7FVvKFHffWCqgQjJkEegQIAxAB>



Digital Advent Calendar

If you haven't already, Get your free Advent digital calendar delivered straight to your inbox....Click on the link.

https://info.focusonthefamily.ca/digital-advent-calendar-2021?fbclid=IwAR1N2ffESXaj1Fwj6BVw61HqckX8g5_lFHra5rQ2Ey7XwqSMtdSt2-p4J



Things to do and places you can go this coming season...



Decorating ornaments? Looking for that special, personalized gift from the heart? Get inspired! Ceramic Cafe is the one stop shop for all your crafty holiday projects. The best part is that you can do it all from home as a family...great fun for the kids! Check out their website and start creating! <https://leccs.com/en/>



https://www.trevi.com/en/the-magic-of-christmas-trevi?srsltid=AfmBOoqUuwQ7KvW7ExHuRwVrN5n30X3Z28zoDJV_2-uQg6XgFer_aPA



Resources For Couples, Parents & Families



FYI ... The Hallmark Channel

Looking for some family Christmas movies? The Hallmark channel has already begun their countdown to Christmas. Get the Hallmark Channel schedule, enter sweepstakes, celebrate Christmas, and find original Hallmark movies, series and so much more family stuff! <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com>



Helping Families Thrive

At Focus on the Family Canada, families are equipped with practical advice grounded in Biblical truths so they can thrive. When families are strong, they leave a valuable imprint on society for generations to come. Focus on the Family is committed to helping Canadians nurture, protect and invest in their families so they can thrive, even in the messy brokenness of our world.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.ca>



Contemporary Christian Music radio stations are listener-supported ministries to be a Biblical, Christ-centered communications and educational ministry dedicated to reaching people and igniting transformation within by affirming faith, inspiring hope and equipping each person to live an intentional life in Christ.

The vision is to see individuals, families, churches and nations of the world transformed – as evidenced by individuals living an intentional life in Christ.

<https://www.myflr.org>

<https://www.siriusxm.ca/channels/the-message>

<https://www.klove.com>

<https://www.air1.com>



At Intentional Living, they hold a passion to help people live intentionally in the five essential areas of life: Faith, Relationships, Health, Finances and Work. Ever since their establishment in 2007 they have been motivated by their God-given mission, vision and message.

<https://www.theintentionallife.com>



Pure Flix is a Christian film production and distribution studio founded by David A. R. White and Russell Wolfe, inspired by Netflix. PureFlix produces Christian films, including God's Not Dead, Do You Believe? Woodlawn and The Case for Christ. Positive entertainment that changes lives, inspires hearts, and lifts the spirit. Premium streaming with no ads or interruptions.

<https://www.pureflix.com/watch-the-best-christmas-movies-online>

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