



Peace in Spite of Chaos

Series: Hope of All the Earth

Scripture: Luke 2:1-3

The peace of God is not _____ on the _____ of busyness and _____ in our lives.

For Mary & Joseph:

- Travel
- Pregnancy
- Even as they are _____ by chaos, they experienced peace because they chose to _____ in the _____ of God.
 - They _____ that God would bring about the redemption of Israel through this child.
- They experienced the peace of God as a _____ and a _____ of hope even in the midst of the chaos and busyness.

The peace of God invites us to _____, to make _____, and to _____ in His goodness.

Shalom - an understanding of _____, harmony, _____, fullness, wholeness and a _____.

We live into that promise of full _____ at the second coming by _____ into the promise _____.

- We must _____ *shalom* now, as you choose it over chaos.

Steps to Peace:

1. _____ your heart
2. Practice _____
3. _____ reconciliation
4. Use your _____ well
5. Be a _____
6. _____ righteousness

Start talking.

- What's the busiest or most chaotic Christmas season you can remember? How did it affect your sense of peace?
- When you hear the word peace, what picture or feeling comes to mind?
- Do you find it easy or hard to slow down during this time of year? Why?

Start thinking:

- Why do you think God chose to enter the world in such a chaotic, inconvenient moment for Mary and Joseph?
- How does their situation challenge our assumptions about when or how God should bring peace?
- In what ways does biblical shalom (wholeness, flourishing) differ from our cultural idea of "peace and quiet"?
- What does Mary and Joseph's response to God teach us about trusting God during uncertain or stressful seasons?

Start Sharing:

- Where do you personally feel the most chaos or pressure right now?
- Can you describe a time when you experienced God's peace even though your circumstances didn't change?
- Which part of the sermon challenged you most—examining your heart, practicing forgiveness, seeking reconciliation, using your words well, or pursuing righteousness?

Start Praying:

Lord, in the midst of all the chaos and busyness around me, teach me to choose Your peace. Help me examine my heart and release anything—anger, fear, bitterness—that keeps me from Your shalom. Give me courage to forgive, humility to seek reconciliation, and wisdom to use my words to build up rather than tear down. Make me a peacemaker in my home, my church, and my community. Prince of Peace, shape my life so that others can see Your peace through me. Today I choose shalom over chaos. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

- What is one practical step you can take this week to make space for God's peace in your routine?
- Who is one person you may need to forgive or seek reconciliation with?
- What is one way you can actively be peacemakers in your community during Advent?