

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What is your favorite memory of a “Christmas past?”
- ❖ In C.S. Lewis’ fictional *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a character laments that the evil White Witch has made it Winter all year round in Narnia, and there is no Christmas. Use your imagination to answer, “What would Winter be without Christmas for you?” When did Christmas mean more to you than just Santa and his elves bringing toys?
- ❖ Read Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9 and Colossians 1:20-22 from today’s outline. What stands in the way of really feeling forgiven of our sins by God? Imagine you’re God – how would it make you feel for people to ignore or not take seriously his promises of grace and forgiveness?
- ❖ When have you experienced the power of grace to free you from hostility toward a person or a group?
- ❖ Read Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 4:16-18. What does Paul say that we can claim as true for ourselves as well? When has the Lord stood by you and strengthened you, rescuing you from “the lion’s mouth?” How do you need his strength and help at this time? How can your group pray for you over this concern?



Our hearts are so easily frightened aren’t they? Perhaps this would be a good week to remind your kiddos that all of us live with fears, but we can choose to trust God and find courage to face them instead of letting them control our feelings and actions. Tell them about a time when you gave in to your fears, and then a time when you faced them with faith. Maybe memorizing John 16:33 as a family would be a great way to celebrate the Prince of Peace’s birth this week! A simpler verse would also be *Psalms 56:3 (NIV)* “When I am afraid, I will trust in you.” Emphasize that Jesus promised that he’d never leave us alone.

UNTO US | A CHILD IS BORN

December 24, 2011

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

"PEACE HAS COME"

THE PEACE THE PRINCE OFFERS

1. He _____ our _____.

Colossians 1:20-22 (TLB) It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to him...for Christ’s death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood. This includes you who were once so far away from God...now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are standing there before him with nothing left against you—nothing left that he could even chide you for.

➡ **Setting _____ and _____ with God.**

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT) We have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

Bible Versions used: TLB—Living Bible; NIV—New International; NLT—New Living Translation; MSG—The Message Paraphrase; GW—God’s Word Translation; ESV—English Standard Version

NorthPointe Community Church 5470 W. Spruce, # 105, Fresno, CA 93722
email: stevewilliams@northpointe.org

2. He _____ our _____
_____.

Ephesians 2:14, 16-18 (MSG) He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance... Christ brought us together through his death on the Cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace... He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

☛ **Leveling _____, enlisting us in _____.**

Matthew 5:9 (GW) "Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called God's children."

Romans 12:16-18, 21 (ESV) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty... Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

3. He _____ to our _____
_____.

Colossians 3:15 (TLB) Let the peace of heart that comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives.

☛ **Promising _____ and _____.**

John 14:27; 16:33 (NIV) "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid... I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."