



Pastor Dave Patterson
ADVENT
Part 2 Peace

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[1Peter 1:3-4 (amp)]

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. **Now we live with great expectation, with a living hope** and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

[John 14:27]

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is **a gift the world cannot give**. So don't be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again."*

PEACE:

- **cultural definition** = the absence of conflict and turmoil
- **Biblical definition** / -shalom- = prosperity and completeness ; to lack nothing or no lack

[John 20:19-29]

*That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "**Peace be with you**," he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, "**Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you**." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "**Receive the Holy Spirit**". ²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"*

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

*Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "**Peace be with you**," he said.*

*Then he said to Thomas, "**Reach out and touch Me. See the punctures in My hands; reach out your hand, and put it to My side; leave behind your faithlessness, and believe.**"*

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

[John 20:27]

*Then he said to Thomas, "**Reach out and touch Me. See the punctures in My hands; reach out your hand, and put it to My side; leave behind your faithlessness, and believe.**"*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your definition of "peace"?
2. How can we experience peace when our circumstances look more like a storm?
3. Have you ever experienced peace in the middle of a storm? Share your stories.
4. Have you put up some walls due to Gods apparent dismissal of your requests for healing or provision or... or...? What wall does Jesus need to walk through to be in your proximity?
5. Have you placed your hope and trust in the promises or have you placed your hope and trust in the Promiser? Talk about the difference between those two perspectives.
6. Spend some time praying for each other and invite Jesus to walk through the walls we have built and ask Him to speak peace to your spirit.