

Small Groups

Conversation Guide – On Earth, Peace

In this week's Christmas message, Pastor Chris shared about a phrase we often hear this time of year: Peace on Earth. Many people not only have a hope of earth being peaceful, but also think God made a promise to bring peace on earth. In Luke 12:51 (NIV), however, Jesus says, "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division." In fact, Jesus makes the opposite promise in John 16:33 (NIV) when He says, "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!" Our key verse from the Christmas story in Luke chapter 2 shares that the message from heaven isn't peace on earth, but, on earth, peace. God's promise is that in the middle of an earth that has wars, bad economies, turmoil, uncertainty, disease, death, and trouble, we can have peace because of Jesus. When unavoidable circumstances, unbearable people, unexplainable problems, and uncontrollable worry try to rob us of our peace, let's remember Luke 2:14 (NIV), which says, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Jesus came to a dark earth, without peace, as a baby, so that one day He could die on the Cross and take away the sins of the world. Peace doesn't come from our problems going away. It comes when we are made right in God's sight and receive a fresh start with Jesus!

Make It Practical

2025 is going to be a Year of New Beginnings!

1. Enter the New Year with a fresh focus on your life. There is nothing more peaceful than a clean slate!
2. Go "all in" for the next year. Attend church and conferences, get involved with Small Groups, find your purpose serving on the Dream Team, and make a difference in the lives of others.
3. Decide to make 2025 the greatest year of your life by making it the greatest year spiritually.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You

will find a baby wrapped in cloths and laying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’”

Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)

Talk About It

1. How much peace do you have in your life? How did this week’s message help you see where peace comes from?
2. What is one thing you may need to put down to experience a fresh start in 2025?
3. What steps do you need to take to go all in with Jesus?

Earth may never experience peace. But you can!

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for coming to earth as a baby, so that You could save us from our sins through Your blood on the Cross. Thank You for making it possible for us to have peace inside of us, no matter what our circumstances may be on earth. Help us see what steps we need to take to start fresh in 2025. We are ready for a year of new beginnings with You, Jesus! It’s in Your name we pray, Amen.

Tips

Start fresh and join us for 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, January 5-25. For more information, visit www.21days.churchofthehighlands.com.