

Peace
Immanuel: God With Us – Part 1
December 5-6, 2020
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love

“She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
Matthew 1:23b (p.733)

“...The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).” Isaiah 7:14 (p.522)

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6b (p.523)

- **God's Peace Is With Me.**

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” Luke 2:14 (p.781)

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” Romans 5:1 (p.860)

1. **Recognize red flags.**

“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.” John 14:27 (p.824)

“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” Romans 8:6 (p.862)

2. **Remain in Jesus.**

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.” John 15:4 (p.824)

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts...” Colossians 3:15 (p.904)

“...His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7 (p.901)

Next Step:

_____ This week when I have a moment when I am not experiencing God’s peace, I will pray
Philippians 4:7: *“God, your peace guards my heart and mind as I live in Christ Jesus.”*



Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of December 5-6, 2020

Immanuel: God With Us - Part 1: Peace

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Weekend Talk with your family or friends.

Conversation Starters

- What is the first Christmas you remember?
- What traditions did you have in your family around Christmas time?
- When life isn't "peaceful" how do you find peace? What helps you experience peace?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this weekend's talk.

The One Thing from the weekend talk that Pastor Jeff wants us to remember is:

"God's Peace Is With Me." (See Matthew 1:18-25 (p.733*), Isaiah 7:14 (p.522*), Isaiah 9:6 (p.523*), Luke 2:14 (p.781*), and Romans 5:1 (p.860*))

- Was Joseph experiencing peace before the visitation from the angel? How must he have felt? What would you think if you were in his shoes?
- What is significant about the fact that God is with us?
- What is peace?
 - Isaiah 9:6 uses the Hebrew word "shalom" for peace. It's the most often used word for peace in the Old Testament and it is closely related to covenant.
 - The Baker Bible Dictionary says, "Shalōm, the most prominent OT term for "peace," held a wide range of connotations (wholeness, health, security, well-being, and salvation)." And, in Isaiah 9:6, "at a time when Israel was under total military domination by Rome, God brought forth a Ruler, his Messiah, the "Prince of Peace," to establish a peace that would never end."
- Jeff talked about this phrase: "peace on earth." Did this mean that the whole world would be in a state of calm and tranquility?
- What does Romans 5:1 say is the source of our peace with God?

Jeff led us through a couple of actions we can take to help us experience God's Peace:

1. **Recognize Red Flags.** (John 14:27 (p.824*), Romans 8:5-7 (p.862*))

- What are some "red flags" you have experienced, in any context?
 - How about "red flags" in the context of what Jeff spoke of, that of being "troubled or afraid?"

- Another way to look at this could be “triggers” to be aware of—things that can knock you off your game if you don’t recognize them and deal with them.
 - What does it mean to be “dominated by the sinful nature?”
 - What are some consequences of this domination?
 - What is the antidote to this domination?
 - How can you “let the Spirit control your mind?” What does that mean?
- 2. Remain in Jesus.** (John 15:4-5 (p.824*), Colossians 3:15 (p.904*))
- “Remain” (John 15:4-5) is the Greek imperative verb “meno” (minnow) which means to stay or reside.
 - Does this sound like a short term or long-term command from Jesus?
 - What happens to branches that are severed from the vine?
 - How useful is a Follower of Jesus who is not connected to Jesus?
 - “Rule” (Colossians 3:15) is the Greek imperative verb “brabeuo” (brah-BYOO-roh)
 - How can peace “rule” in your heart?
 - “Peace” (Colossians 3:15) is the Greek “eirēnē” (ir-RAY-nay) which means wholeness or the absence of conflict.
 - How are “wholeness” and “absence of conflict” related?
 - When a relationship is whole is it in conflict?
- Read Philippians 4:6-7 (p.901*)
 - This verse is closely related to Colossians 3:15.
 - What has been your experience of finding peace through prayer and your relationship with Jesus?
 - What does Jesus’ peace do?

Digging Deeper

Let’s explore “Peace” a little bit more. Look up some or all of the following passages and talk about your experience with each concept of the **effects** of and/or the **maintenance** of **peace**.

- **The effects of peace for Followers of Jesus.**
 - Forgiveness: Acts 7:59-60 (p.836*); Romans 12:17-19 (p.866*).
 - Encouragement: 2 Corinthians 1:3-6 (p.882*); Philippians 4:11-13 (p.901*).
 - Health and healing: Proverbs 14:30 (p.491*); Isaiah 57:18-19 (p.562*).
 - Security: Proverbs 1:33 (p.482*); Acts 27:21-26 (p.855); Romans 8:28,35-39 (p.863*).
 - Hope: Romans 15:13 (p.868*); Romans 5:1-5 (p.860*).
- **How Followers of Jesus maintain peace.**
 - Through remaining in Christ: John 15:4-7 (p.824*); John 16:33 (p.825), Romans 5:1-5 (p.860*).
 - Through living by the Holy Spirit: Romans 14:17-19 (p.867*); Galatians 5:22 (p.893*).
 - Through obedience to God’s word: Joshua 1:8-9 (p.168*); Psalms 119:165-167 (p.471*).
 - Through prayer and meditation: Psalms 1:1-3 (p.415*); Isaiah 26:3 (p.535*); 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (p.910*).

Next Step

My Next Step: ___ This week when I have a moment when I am not experiencing God's peace, I will pray Philippians 4:7: "God, your peace guards my heart and mind as I live in Christ Jesus."

What's Ahead

- **This week we continue our Christmas Talk Series, "Immanuel: God With Us,"** as we celebrate together the Advent Season of Jesus bringing us God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
- We'll culminate the season on **Christmas Eve.** The registration page is up NOW for reserving your places for Christmas Eve (and for this coming weekend, as well) at **www.alivechurch.com/christmas**.
- **Make a Difference** by serving at Alive Church by visiting **alivechurch.com/serve**.

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one.