

# The Lights of Christmas

## Part 2: The Light of Peace Given Luke 2:8-20

An Angel's **proclamation** to shepherds vs. 8-14

The **announcement** – vs. 8-12

The announcement **Interrupted** – vs. 13-14

Phrases linked to Peace:

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the **highest** (heaven),  
And **on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**”

‘**on earth peace**’ – here below as it is in heaven

‘**peace among men**’ – not totally ‘*between men*’; but *among* humanity. Salvation’s peace.

‘**Peace to those on whom His favor Rests**’ (NIV) – ‘God’s peace rests on those whom He has chosen in accord with His good pleasure’

### Two arenas of Peace:

**Spiritual Peace** – Peace with **God** Rom 5:1-2; Rev. 5:9-13

**Relational Peace** – Peace with **People**

Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:31-32; Gal. 5:22-23

The Shepherd’s **proclamation** to the community vs. 15-20

Socially **disqualified** Shepherds become the first **qualified** witnesses of the birth of the Christ

## Life Group Discussion Questions – December 10, 2023

**Luke 2:14-15** “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.”

### DISCOVER

1. What can we learn from God using shepherds as His messengers of good tidings? If Jesus came for the shepherds and the outcasts then what does that say about the religious establishment of the time? How does God uplift the seemingly insignificant today?
2. What are the two arenas of peace that Phil taught? Does Luke 2:14 refer to personal spiritual peace, or global peace, or was it more of a friendly greeting? Explain. How can there be peace within us but not between us? How does being at peace with God facilitate peace with others? How can the outcome of spiritual peace be relational peace with others? Why might there be situations where God might not want you to be at peace?
3. Which is easier, bringing peace to a situation or causing discord? Explain. What keeps mankind from living in peace? What are circumstances that lead to you not being at peace?
4. What kind of peace does Jesus bring to anyone who believes in Him? Describe the peace you felt when you first believed. Was that peace felt immediately or something you grew into? How does Jesus enable believers to live at peace with God?

### EXPLORE

1. Read John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7. How is the peace Jesus brings, to anyone who believes, different than the lack of conflict the world sometimes strives for?
2. Read Isaiah 26:3. Explain whether it is even possible, in our current state, to be in perfect peace. What kind of peace is referenced in this scripture? Why are we so often disgruntled, worried or anxious? What brings us back into alignment with our God who has everything under control?
3. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16. What do you see about God that convinces you that He is the provider of peace? How can it be true that He is the Lord of peace when there is so much angst in our hearts and world? What does it mean that God will “continually grant peace”?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Matthew 5:9 says “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” What can Christians do to bring peace to a dark and hurting world? Do you sometimes just want to give up on living in harmony with others? How might Jesus react to someone giving up on living in accord with others?
2. Some think that we should be able to have global peace now through systems of government or by restraining bad behavior. Why has this failed through the millennia? When will we have true global peace?
3. Why might we struggle to be at peace with God despite Him already declaring us justified? What holds you back from being at perfect peace with God? How can the outcome of spiritual peace be relational peace with others?

### PRAY

*Pray...God, we demonstrate over and over that, if left to us, the world will not be at peace. Your favor allows us to be in spiritual peace with you. Sadly, we are sometimes anxious and worried until you bring us back into alignment. Please reveal to us how we can share your peace with a world that battles against You. The need is great and You are the only answer. Amen.*