

Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Perfect Peace"

Points from Sunday's Message

- 1. The coming of Christ brings the blessing of peace.
- 2. The peace that Christ brings is everlasting and increasing.
- 3. In and by Christ we blessed with peace from God, resulting in peace with God and one another.
- 4. Peace from God brings peace with God resulting in the blessing of the peace of God in our lives.
- 5. The peace of God is available to you as come to God in faith and prayer.

Key Verse:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Discussion Questions:

1. "Peace" vs. "Shalom" — What Are We Really Longing For?

Questions: Pastor Miles explained that biblical shalom means "universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight... the way things ought to be." How does this definition influence the way you understand Jesus as the Prince of Peace?

Further Reading: Isaiah 9:1–7, John 14:27 (Jesus gives not as the world gives)

2. What Steals Your Peace Most Often?

Questions: The message highlights how constant notifications, social media outrage, and world events cultivate anxiety. What are the top "peace-robbers" in your life right now? How might you begin resisting them during Advent?

Practical Application Idea: Identify one specific peace-draining input and "fast" from it for a few days this week.

Further Reading: Psalm 46, Philippians 4:6–9

3. Peace From God → Peace With God → Peace Of God

Pastor Miles outlined three layers of peace:

- 1. Peace from God (grace)
- 2. Peace with God (reconciliation)
- 3. The peace of God (experienced internally)

Questions: Which of these do you most personally relate to right now? Do you feel like you're living in the peace of God, or only aware of the peace you have with God?

Further Reading: Romans 5:1–11, Ephesians 2:14–18

4. Being Ambassadors of Peace in a Broken World

Questions: Pastor Miles reminded us that Jesus calls His followers "peacemakers," especially during a season when family gatherings can easily rob us of peace.

What might it look like for you to be a peacemaker (not a peacekeeper or peace-avoider) in your home, workplace, or relationships this month?

Practical Application: Choose one specific person or relationship that tends to stir anxiety and pray intentionally over that relationship each day this week.

Further Reading: Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:17–21

5. Peace Through Prayer: "Casting Your Cares"

Paul says the peace that "surpasses understanding" comes through bringing everything to God in prayer. Pastor Miles emphasized that this is simple to understand but hard to practice.

Questions: What keeps you from regularly handing your worries to the Lord? What is one burden you need to "lay out before the Lord," like Hezekiah did with his threatening letter?

Further Reading: Philippians 4:6–7, 1 Peter 5:6–7, Matthew 11:28–30

6. Replacing Worry with Meditation on the Good

Question: We often meditate unconsciously through worry. How can you intentionally begin meditating on what is "true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy" (Phil. 4:8)?

Share one practical method:

- Scripture memory
- Limiting negative voices (news/social media)
- Gratitude journaling
- Worship music
- Quiet reflection time

Further Reading: Philippians 4:8–9, Psalm 1, Colossians 3:15–16

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.