

ULC Sermon Study Resource
As We Wait // Waiting for Peace
Pastor Chris
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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite part about the Advent season?

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Outline:

- I. Peace Endures (v. 5)
 - A. God's peace has endured throughout history during Israel's failures in the Old Testament and continues to endure during our own failures as well. With Jesus, there is peace now that endures, and an even greater peace to come.
 - B. As Stephenie Phillips says, many times our ideas of peace are dependent on certain actions or outcomes. However, true peace transcends these feelings and never leaves us.
Q: *Have you ever felt the sort of peace Phillips talks about?*
- II. Peace Delivers (v. 4)
 - A. The same God that brings peace at the end of all things and unites all people and all nations together, is the same God that is with you in the moment where nation rises against nation and everything is falling apart.
 - B. Francis Frangipane says that "rescue is the constant pattern of God's activity..." God takes every single turn where humanity fails, and gives back peace. Peace between you and God, and the beginning of peace between one another.
Q: *Has there been a time in your life where peace has delivered you from hardship?*
- III. Peace Inspires (v. 2-3)
 - A. In these verses, all people of the world are learning to walk in God's ways because his ways bring peace to people, and will one day bring peace to the whole world.
 - B. Peace from God inspires us, because when you know how it feels to have peace, you just want others to share in that peace. So, as David said in the Psalms, we must seek peace and pursue it.
Q: *When has someone else's peace (or even your own) most inspired you?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we remind ourselves to not seek the worldly definition of peace and to seek God's peace instead?
- 2) How can we discern when we have God's peace?
- 3) How can we share peace with others in the midst of our tragedy-stricken world?
- 4) How do we seek peace and pursue it?

Suggestions for further study:

- Isaiah 56:7 Q: How does this verse help illustrate what peace from God may look like in our lives?
- Hosea 2:18 Q: How does this verse illustrate the transformative power of God's peace?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for rescuing us from our own sin through the power of your peace. We thank you that you promise to bring peace to the world one day, and to unite people of all nations under your love. Teach us to seek peace and pursue it, and to discern when we most need your peace, not the peace this world may seem to offer us. Amen.