

WAITING FOR PEACE

Isaiah 65:17-25

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does peace mean to you? How would you define it?
- There is a disparity between the peace of the gospel and the lack of peace in our society; when you reflect on our world, what issues seem to most challenge peace? In your own life, where do you struggle to achieve peace?

Peace can sometimes feel like an elusive ideal. It is rarely felt simultaneously in one's personal life, community life, and our world. The unrest is a sign of sin still prevalent in all creation. Whether you're yearning for a moment of peace in a hectic holiday schedule or lamenting the most recent media coverage of violent hate crimes, mass shootings or terrorism, Advent is a time we can study the promises of peace in scripture to discover God's peace for our lives. In doing so, we learn how to truly be people of shalom.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Describe how God's peace is different than common definitions of peace. How does God's peace affect or alter our desires for peace?
- What do moments of peace in your personal life do for your relationship to God and his world? In what ways can moments of peace remind you of and give you hope for God's eternal peace for all creation?
- How can we imbue moments of peace with greater spiritual purpose? Are there any verses or images that would trigger you to think about God's peace when you're longing for a moment of peace?
- How are you contributing to the flourishing of others and to the flourishing of all creation?
- Can you identify 2-3 things in your life, community or the culture at large that need to be restored to the way God intended them to be before sin altered creation? How might God be asking you to participate in that restoration while you wait for Christ's ultimate and final restoration of all creation at his return?

Related Passages

- **Luke 2:8-15**
- **Isaiah 11:6-9**
- **Matthew 11:1-6**
- **Revelation 21:1-5**

Conclusion

Allow the Christmas readings and Christmas carols of the season to remind and lead you to God's peace. As you sing about peace on earth: rejoice in Christ's birth which made God's peace on earth possible again; give thanks for your salvation and calling to participate in bringing God's kingdom to earth; pray for specific situations in your family, community, and our society which need God's peace; and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and prompting for the little and big ways God is calling you to be a person of shalom while you wait with eager anticipation for Jesus Christ's return.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/waiting-for-peace>

Printed on May 7, 2024