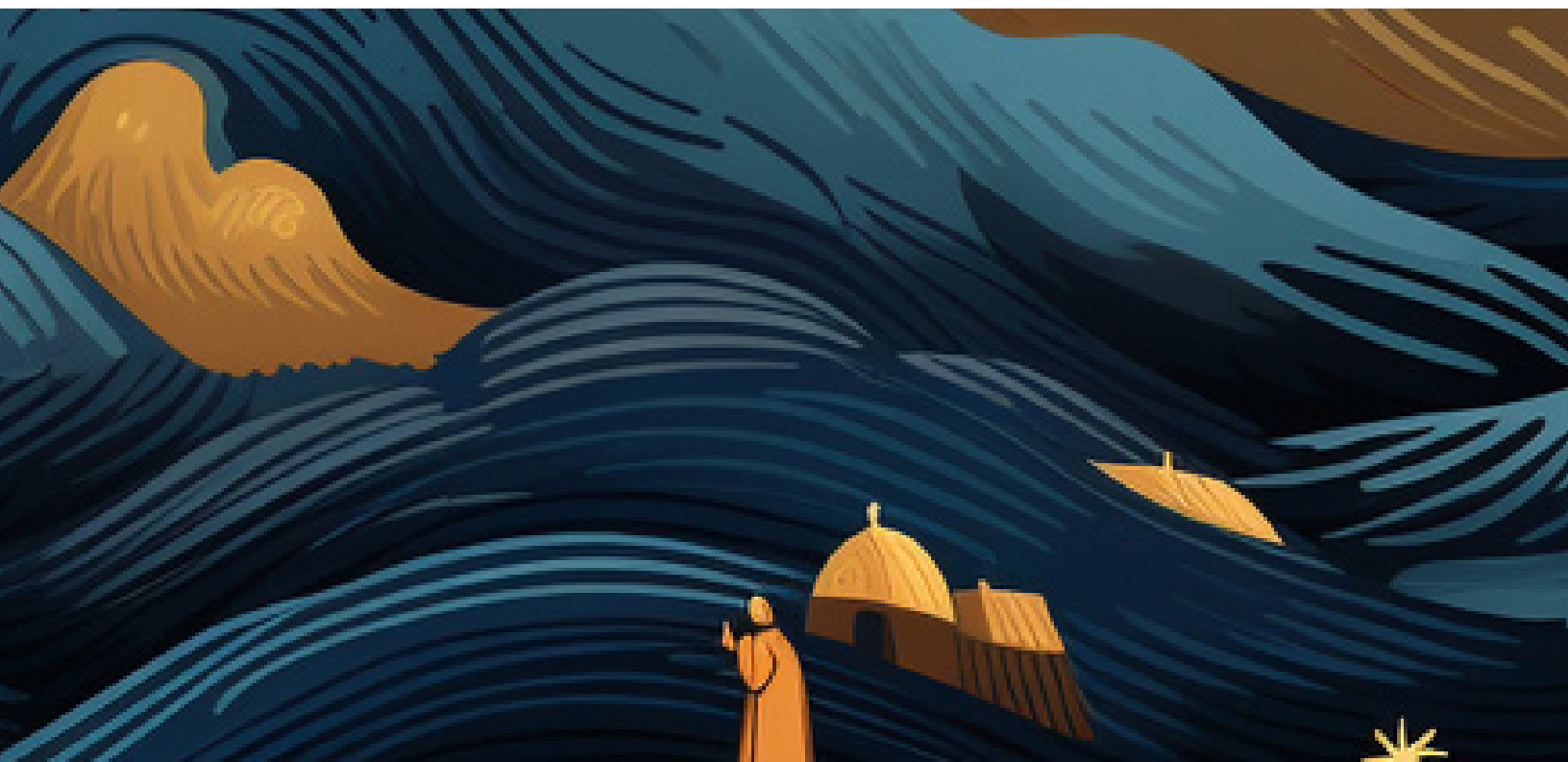


PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study



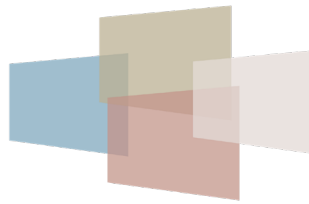
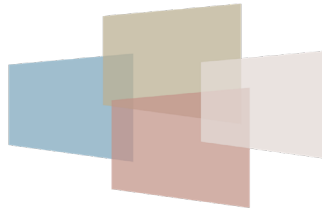


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How to Use This Mini Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him.

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

God invites each of us to know Him personally and to have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1:

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,*

*will be fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.*

Isaiah 9:2-7



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about peace?



What does it mean that the Messiah would be called the Prince of Peace?



How would the promise of the Messiah have brought peace to the people of Israel?



What is bringing you peace in life right now?



From www.gotquestions.org/peace-of-God.html

If God is peace, then to know God is to bask in His peace. The closer we draw to Him, the more of His peace we can enjoy (James 4:8). God gives us clear instructions about how to draw near to Him. Psalm 24:3–4 says, “Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.” But Scripture is also clear that we cannot make ourselves clean enough or pure enough to earn the presence of the Lord (Romans 3:10, 23). So how do we draw near enough to experience His peace? Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27, ESV). We come into the presence of the Lord through His Son (John 14:6). When we allow Jesus’ death and resurrection to purchase our forgiveness from God, we are counted as righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). Our sins are forgiven because Jesus already paid the price for them. Only then can we have peace with God (Romans 4:5; 5:1; 1 John 4:10).

Do you have the peace of God that comes from having peace with God? If not, today can be the day of salvation. If you have peace with God, how are you experiencing the peace of God?



If experiencing peace is something you struggle with, pour your heart out to God. Ask Him to reveal what is keeping you from having peace. As you reflect on this passage again, write down at least one character trait or promise of the Messiah that you can have peace about today.



Lesson 2: **PEACE AT CHRISTMAS**

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of
old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant
us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,*

*in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most
High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Luke 1:68-79, ESV



Read the passage above. What do these verses reveal about peace?



What robs you of peace, and how can you better rely on God to guide your feet in peace?



What is the connection between God's character and peace in the life of a believer?



How does reflecting on God's promises for the Messiah bring you peace, especially in the Christmas season?



Where in your life would you like God to guide you into peace? How can you experience God's peace in the midst of or even despite your circumstances? Ask God to bring peace in the situations you have thought of, and ask Him to guide your feet in peace.



Lesson 3: PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:8-20, ESV



Read the passage above. What do we learn about peace from these verses?



How are you experiencing peace in your life and with others as a result of what Jesus has done?



Why is peace important to be communicated and displayed?



What does it mean to have peace on earth, and how do we get to experience that today?



Where in your life are you experiencing peace as a result of Christ coming to earth to save us from our sins? Thank Him for the ways He has brought peace to the world and to your life.



Lesson 4:

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

*“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”*

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:34-39



Read the passage above. What did Jesus mean about not coming to bring peace?



From <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/10/Matthew-10-34.html>

In the years leading up to Christ's birth, many Israelites believed the arrival of the Messiah would immediately bring a time of great peace and prosperity to Israel. Even Jesus' disciples may have believed this. Jesus has shown through His teaching and miracles that He is, in fact, the Messiah. Now, though, He wants to help His followers understand that the season of political peace will not come soon.

*Instead, His arrival will bring great division to the world. He has come to bring a sword. Jesus is not describing the sword of God's judgment, nor one of military action, or of personal violence. The item Jesus refers to here is the Greek term *machairan*, most often used for large knives such as those used by fishermen. The main purpose of those blades was to separate different parts of a cut of meat—this is the same term used in the book of Hebrews to depict Scripture's ability to separate truth and error (Hebrews 4:12).*

In other words, Jesus' message will naturally create division; this "sword" will divide the world into those who believe in Him and those who do not. His arrival will bring great conflict as those who reject Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God will turn in hatred against those who hear and believe (1 Peter 4:3–4; John 15:18–21), including the members of one's own family.

Although Jesus brought us peace with God, in what ways did He not bring peace?



Think about the ways in which following God have disrupted peace. What do these moments reveal about Jesus' warning in this passage?



What has receiving peace with God and the peace of God cost you? How have you held on to the Lord through these difficulties? Ask God to let the peace you have as a believer with God fuel the peace of God that you experience in the midst of your difficulties.



Lesson 5:

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing

wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-18



Read the above passage. What does it reveal about peace?



How is God our peace, and what changes does this bring to our lives?



How is God calling you to live in light of this peace we have with Him and with the truth that He is our peace?



Spend some time rejoicing in and worshiping God for who He is and what He has done: for His coming to earth and for what He has done in your personal life to bring peace.



Lesson 6:

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about peace?



How does the peace of God guard our hearts and minds?



How does the truth and reality of God's peace impact your relationship with Him?



When circumstances are difficult or painful, what does it look like to seek God's peace? How does cultivating peace in the midst of difficulty change your perspective?



What truths allow you to find God's peace in the midst of your circumstances? How can you let His peace guard your heart and mind through your circumstances?



Lesson 7:

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:23-27



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about peace?



How did Jesus leave us with and give us peace?



How are you currently resting in God's peace in the midst of your trials and difficulties? If you are not, how can you rest in God's peace?



How does your peace impact your outlook on your circumstances? Your attitudes? Your interactions with others? Is there anything that needs to change?



Where is your heart currently? If it needs redirection, list out how you can find peace today. If you are currently peaceful, share how you are experiencing God's peace in the midst of your circumstances with someone else today! It might help change their heart, attitudes, and perspective too!



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied seven lessons on peace at Christmas, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of peace at Christmas changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of peace especially in this Christmas season? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?