

## Discussion Guide

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# Peace On Earth

## There Is Peace For Every Season

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### Main Idea

This season can evoke both joy and stress, with moments of celebration and overwhelming emotions. While the world offers temporary peace, true peace comes from God, not the absence of problems or something we can create ourselves. Jesus didn't promise a life without struggles, but He promised to be with us through them. By focusing on Him, we can experience His lasting peace even in the midst of chaos and uncertainty.

### Anchor Passage

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you HIS peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16, NLT

#### 1. Peace Is Found In Surrender

Peace comes when we let go and draw close to God, trusting Him to take care of the things we can't control. True peace will come when we LET GO and allow Him to take the lead.

Read James 4:8

What are some specific areas in your life where you find it hardest to let go of control, and how can drawing near to God help you surrender those worries to Him?

## **2. Gratitude Is The Path To Peace.**

When we start thanking God for His blessings, peace follows. Gratitude invites God's peace into your situation.

Read Colossians 3:15

What are three things that you're thankful for?

## **Practical Ways to Walk In The Gift of Peace.**

### **1. We Have To Choose To - Prioritize HIS PRESENCE**

When life feels overwhelming, go to God first. Talk to Him about what's troubling you. - He can handle your frustrations.

Read Philippians 4:6

When life gets overwhelming, what are some practical ways you can prioritize God's presence and bring your frustrations to Him, instead of trying to handle them on your own?

### **2. We Have To Choose To Stay Connected (Pursue Community).**

Surround yourself with people who will encourage and pray for you. We're not meant to do life alone.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

How have you experienced God's peace through the support and encouragement of others in your community, and what steps can you take to strengthen those connections moving forward?

### **3. We Have To Choose To Focus On What Really Matters.**

Don't sweat the small stuff. We have to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Read Isaiah 26:3

What are some distractions or 'small stuff' in your life that prevent you from keeping your focus on Jesus, and how can you intentionally shift your focus to experience His peace?

## SUMMARY

This season can bring both joy and stress, with moments of celebration mixed with feelings of overwhelm. True peace comes not from avoiding problems or controlling everything, but from trusting in God's peace, which is constant and unshakable. While struggles are inevitable, Jesus promises to be with us through them. Peace is found when we let go, draw near to God, and focus on Him, trusting that He will handle what we can't. Gratitude invites peace, and community provides strength. In all things, fix your eyes on Jesus and let go of what distracts you from His presence.

## CALL TO ACTION

1. **Let Go and Trust God:** Identify areas of your life where you're trying to control outcomes or hold onto worry. Take a moment to release those things to God, trusting that He will take care of what you can't control, and allow His peace to fill you.
2. **Cultivate Gratitude:** Make it a habit to thank God daily for His blessings, big and small. Start a gratitude journal or set aside time each day to acknowledge His goodness, allowing that gratitude to open the door to His peace in your life.
3. **Focus on Community:** Strengthen your connections with others who encourage and pray for you. Make time to be part of a supportive community, whether through church groups, friendships, or family, and lean on them when life feels overwhelming.

### **COMING UP**

Join us in reaching our city with Hope City's annual [Hope for Christmas](#) project!

If you have, currently are, or are considering leading a small group in 2025, please register today for our Group Leader Rally and Intensive Training on January 4, 2025, by clicking [HERE](#).

## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

**Game:** Candy Canes (Holiday Spoons)

You'll need a deck of cards and 3+ people circled around a pile of candy canes, one less than the number of players. Everyone takes turns pulling cards with the goal to be the first to get four of a kind (ex. four Kings). Once you do, take a candy cane as stealthily as possible. Once that happens, everyone else races to grab one of the remaining candy canes. The person who doesn't get a candy cane is eliminated. Do this until one winner remains.

<https://www.shutterfly.com/ideas/christmas-party-games/>