

Life Group Discussion Guide

Advent

December 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALC Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 12 | 6-7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. There will be a photo opportunity, kid's games, fire pits, live animals, hot chocolate, Christmas lights, and a live nativity.

LEADER NOTES

This week we continued our Advent series with an incredible message from Jennie Gilpin. This season, for many, has become synonymous with anxiety. Beyond the regular hustle and bustle of Christmas, multiple factors has made the 2021 Christmas season particularly uncertain and stressful. We often think the solution to anxiety in our lives is to simply remove something. Jennie reminded us, however, that peace is not simply the absence of something, but rather the presence of someone.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

John 14:27-29 (NIV)

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. ²⁸ Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. ²⁹ I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

Philippeans 4:6-7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

LOOK UP

This week's text is a small sampling of the many passages of Scripture that focus on our current state of anxiety and God's promise of peace. Why do you think this is such a prominent theme in the Bible?

LOOK AROUND

What things have you removed from your life in an attempt to find peace? Did you truly experience peace afterward?

Are there practices that you have found helpful in connecting with Jesus and finding peace in His presence? If not, discuss how you might begin some regular practices of prayer in your daily life.

How can we live at peace with people are rude or even hostile toward us?

LOOK AHEAD and PRAY

In Ephesians 4:1-3, we find three qualities that contribute to our ability to live with one another in unity and peace: humility, gentleness, and patience. Which of these qualities come most naturally to you, and which are more of a challenge for you?

Pray together that God would show you His humility, gentleness, and patience, and teach you to live in peace with others.