



ADVENT

Week 1

Peace on Earth

Current Series:

Peace on Earth

Advent

Nov 27 - Dec 18

How do we prepare for the Prince of Peace's arrival? By looking inwardly to assure that we are at peace, by bringing peace in the showing of empathy toward others, by taking action against that which does not bring peace, and highlighting the peaceful things that are already going on in our city.

Our Advent series is shaped around peace. The elections have created divisiveness and a lack of peace. It's our job as a church to be an agent of peace.

How do we prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ?

- Week 1: By working inwardly to assure that we are at peace.
- Week 2: Peace through showing empathy towards our neighbors.
- Week 3: By bringing peace through action towards justice.
- Week 4: By celebrating the peace that is already taking place.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1, Isaiah 9:1-8

God is Angry:

In the Old Testament there are a lot of troubling images of God. We have God who asks for genocide, the cruel treatment of women, and even death. We often talk about how these were not God's true intentions but rather the writings of people in an iron age who are trying to relate to God.

But here we are in Isaiah chapter 1, who is arguably the most popular prophet, and we have a very clear picture about what makes God angry. We also have a very clear picture about what God intends in Israel's future.

Discussion:

1. What is it that makes God angry? Why is God upset with God's people?
2. Can we draw parallels today? Are there ways in which the church or Christians are missing the point of the actions that are actually pleasing to God?
3. There is a clear call to repentance in this first chapter. What is that call? How does that ring true for us during this time of advent?

Take Action:

We'll be buying gifts for Restore and hearing from different orgs including the Nomi Network and Logoff. As a group, decide how you can bring peace to yourselves by bringing peace to others.

What will your group do this season to bring that peace?

Will you support one of the organizations that we're working with this Advent season?

Will you and your group find a place to serve this holiday season?

Will you join a protest?

Will you find peace by being the peace that God intends?

Opportunities:

- 11/28 - [Do For One Info Session](#)
- 12/7 - [Nomi Network Annual Holiday Party](#)
- 12/9 - [Do For One Holiday Party](#)
- 12/14 - [Kenmore Game Night](#)
- 12/17 - [BCS Gift Wrapping](#)
- 12/20 - [Christmas Dinner with Boys Town](#)

To think through as a group:

Jesus quotes Isaiah more than any other prophet. Check out these verses.

- Jesus speaks in parables, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy concerning "eyes that do not see" and "ears that do not hear" (Is 6:9-10; Mt 13:14-15; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10).
- When Jesus turns over the tables in the temple, he references Isaiah's words on how the house of God was intended to operate (Is 56:7; Mt 21:13; Mk 11:17; Lk 19:46).
- He calls out the Pharisees and scribes for their lip service to God—they honor God with their words, but their hearts are far, far from him (Is 29:13; Mt 15:8-9; Mk 7:6-7).
- Read Luke 4:17-30 and then read Isaiah 61:1-2. What does Jesus leave out? What might this indicate? How do the people respond?

What's the overarching tone of Jesus Christ when he's quoting Isaiah? Is it possible that this is an Isaiah 1 issue all over again? Are people once again missing the point?

Final thoughts:

Let's follow the narrative. Isaiah gets a word from God that God is truly angry. We've discussed what makes God angry.

We see the promise of God from Jesus Christ. Jesus quotes Isaiah. In general we see that Jesus is proving once again that the people have missed the point of who God is and how God wants us to interact in the world.

The fact is that 80 percent of evangelical Christians voted for Donald Trump. Maybe you did too. I'm sure you have your reasons. But many evangelicals cited that Trump had the most Christian platform. According to Isaiah, what would God's platform look like?

In order to bring peace to ourselves what is it that we must do as Christ followers and as a church?