



## Good News of Peace

December 13, 2015

1. Read Luke 2:8-15 When the shepherds heard that a King was born in Bethlehem, what significance did that have?
2. Why do you think fear is the first response when God shows up?
3. As Pastor Mark pointed out peace is promised 365 times in scripture. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of peace?
4. At this season, what are the biggest anxieties or worries that are on your mind? How can the 'good news' help you in dealing with these? Luke 2:14 says, "on earth peace to whom His favor rests." What is it like to be in favor with another person? Think about the calmness and confidence of being blessed by that favor. There is calmness about having been chosen for this closeness of relationship with no fear of judgement, only gracious confrontation when necessary. How does that translate into God's bestowal of His favor, of His being "well pleased" with me? He doesn't overlook sin. He doesn't shield us from the harshness of life on earth. My response?
5. According to Pastor Mark, "peace is not the absence of conflict...it is the presence of God!" How can you experience peace in the midst of chaos? Mark gave us three questions to ponder in chaos to find peace. (Give your group time to think on these questions privately before answering.)
  - a. Where are you God?
  - b. What are you doing?
  - c. What am I missing?

Share together what you hear God saying in answer to these questions.

6. Shalom means that everything is set right, wholeness, completeness, "all things reconciled to God." (Col. 1:19-20) What would it take for shalom to be present in your life?
7. After the shepherds heard the announcement by the angels, they went looking for Jesus. Go to Jesus and in the PERSON, you will find perfect peace. Do you tend to approach things of God more like the shepherds or the scholars? The answer to this determines the amount of God and peace you will experience.