

DISTRESS**Not A Storybook Christmas**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus comes into the pain of my story to bring me hope, peace, and joy because He loves me.

God made all things good. Everything existed in harmony and wholeness with God and each other. (Genesis 1:31)

Peace was present because God was present with His creation.

Adam and Eve's sin disrupted humanity's peace with God and disconnected us from God. (Genesis 3)

Jesus came to restore my peace with God and restore me back into a relationship with God.

²¹"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:21-23 (NIV)

¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:11-14 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Jesus came so I can have peace with God and experience the peace of God in whatever I go through.

I have peace with God when I trust in Jesus as my Savior.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)

Trusting in Jesus as my Savior restores me to the place just-as-if I never sinned.

I have the peace of God when I trust in Jesus as my Lord.

³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

Trusting in Jesus as my Lord gives me confidence to embrace my pain to experience God's peace.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

"God with me" means I have peace in _____.

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