



# CHRISTMAS

in  
THE KINGDOM

## Week Three | Tranquility > Hostility | 12.17-18.2022

**Group Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal study time or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Message Recap:** Christmas feels crowded. There is a better vision for Christmas in the Kingdom of Heaven. When we recast our picture of this season towards a picture of what God originally envisioned, the pressure is released, and the hope increases. Let's explore Christmas in the Kingdom, the hope, joy, peace, and love that Jesus died to provide. Before the resurrection was the incarnation; He came to earth so that we could experience Heaven this Christmas and every Christmas for eternity.

### » Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - Clarify expectations:
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
  - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

### » Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: How are you finding peace in your current season of life?
- Digging Deeper: The prophets often shared the news that Jesus would eventually come to earth, but it was unpopular. Explain how you share the good news of who Jesus is and what he has done in your life.

### » Observation | Read Isaiah 9:6; 52:7

(15 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

### » Key Principle | Tranquility > Hostility

(15 minutes)

- Define a tranquil time in your life. What upsets our tranquility? Is it a choice to allow those disturbances? Why or why not?
- Do you trust that God has our lives in His control? Do we trust His promises? Do we live like it?

### » The Peace Process | Reread Isaiah 52:7-8; Luke 2:8-21; Romans 8:3-6

(15 minutes)

- Describe the wording in Isaiah 52 that points to Jesus. How does the wording in Luke 2 specifically highlight that fulfillment?
- Because God is the publisher of peace, is it reasonable to expect peace to be found anywhere separate from Him? Why?
- When is it hardest to focus on the Spirit in our lives? Does our focus change who Jesus is? Does it change who we are?

### » The Peace Person | Reread Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13,14; Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 8:14-17; Revelation 21:1-7

(15 minutes)

- Describe the difference between personal peace and governmental peace. How does - and will - Jesus provide both?
- What does it mean to be a citizen? What does it mean to be an heir? How are those two combined in Jesus' kingdom?
- How does our current suffering compare to the promised new heaven and earth? What is promised there? What is missing?

### » Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- The peace described by Isaiah in 52:7 is in the midst of hostility. How can you experience the tranquility of peace in the hostility of the present?
- Close by praying for one another to experience God's peace as we get closer to Christmas.