






	ADVENT: Peace
 BIG IDEA	Peace isn't found in the absence of problems, but in the presence of Jesus.
 ICE BREAKER	If you could only eat one Christmas treat for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?
 MAIN POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Gospel is Good News for All People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first time in history that good news was genuinely available to everyone regardless of background, status, or circumstances. ● Biblical Peace (Shalom) is Different Than We Think <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shalom means wholeness, completeness, and rest in the midst of conflict ○ Jesus is the Prince of Peace—the Lord in charge of bringing wholeness ○ Two kinds of peace: Peace WITH God (through salvation) and the Peace OF God (through daily trust) ● We Fall in the Direction We're Leaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaning on our own understanding leads to anxiety and instability ○ Leaning on Jesus as our Rock provides the foundation for lasting peace
 DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does understanding that the Gospel is "good news for ALL people" change the way we view ourselves and others? What barriers or divisions do we sometimes create that Jesus came to break down? 2. Before today, how would you have defined "peace"? How does the biblical concept of shalom—wholeness in the midst of conflict—differ from what our culture teaches about peace? 3. Where in your life do you currently need shalom (biblical peace)? 4. Read Isaiah 26:3. What does it mean practically to keep your mind "steadfast" on God? What are some ways you can do this during busy or stressful seasons? 5. Read Philippians 4:6-7. According to this passage, what's the connection between prayer and experiencing God's peace? How can we make this more of a regular practice? 6. The Serenity Prayer talks about accepting what cannot be changed and having courage to change what should be changed. What's something in your life right now that needs to change?
 NEXT STEP	Set aside 5-10 minutes each day (maybe first thing in the morning or before bed) to intentionally draw close to Jesus through prayer and Scripture reading. When you feel stress, anxiety, or conflict rising, pause and ask yourself: "What am I leaning on right now?" Then redirect your mind back to Jesus.
 SCRIPTURE	<p>Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.</p> <p>Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.</p>
	Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the Christmas series: Advent

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com