

Small Group Guide

Week of
December 22,
2024

Christmas
classics

Wrapped In
Peace



Icebreaker



- What was your favorite childhood comfort item, like Linus' blanket? Do you still have it?
- If you could replace one common household item with a luxury version (e.g., a \$179 pillow), what would it be?



Discussion Questions



- In what ways do you see our culture prioritizing comfort over peace? How has this influenced you personally?
- Reflecting on Isaiah 9:6, which title of Jesus (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) resonates with you the most right now? Why?
- How have you experienced the difference between comfort (absence of struggle) and peace (presence of God) in your life?
- What "security blankets" do you find yourself clinging to when life gets tough? How do these compare to trusting Jesus?
- How does the story of Linus letting go of his blanket during the recitation of Luke 2 inspire you in your faith journey?
- Solomon said his pursuit of comfort and worldly pleasures was "meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). How can this passage shape our priorities and pursuits today?
- What steps can you take to let go of something temporary you've been holding onto and embrace the eternal peace that Jesus offers?
- As we approach Christmas, how can you live in a way that reflects the Prince of Peace to those around you, even in moments of discomfort or struggle?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God's peace surprised you in the middle of a chaotic or uncomfortable situation? Share the experience.



Thought for the Group



We live in a world that constantly pursues comfort—whether through material possessions, achievements, or distractions like social media. But no matter how much we chase these things, they can never truly satisfy or bring peace to our souls.

In Isaiah 9:6, Jesus is called the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. His peace isn't about avoiding struggles but about experiencing His presence in the middle of them. True peace is found in trusting Him, not in avoiding discomfort.

Like Linus in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, we often cling to our own "blankets" for security—whether it's money, relationships, success, or distractions. But these things, much like Solomon discovered in *Ecclesiastes*, leave us empty in the end.

Linus' moment of letting go happens when he declares, "Fear not!" As he focuses on the Savior, he no longer needs his blanket. Similarly, Jesus calls us to surrender our false comforts and trust Him fully. Only then can we experience the unshakable peace He offers.

Comfort is temporary, but peace is eternal. This Christmas, let's not just pursue a cozy holiday but a deeper relationship with the Prince of Peace. Let go of the things you're clinging to, and invite Jesus to be your true source of peace.



Next Steps



- Dedicate 10-15 minutes daily to intentionally seek God's peace through prayer, Scripture reading, or journaling. Use this time to focus on Isaiah 9:6 and remind yourself of who Jesus is: your Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.
- Choose one area where you've been avoiding discomfort. Step into it with the mindset that peace comes through trusting God, not avoiding challenges.