

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT) - Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of wholeness

John 14:27 (NLT) - I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT) - We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

John 20:19-22 (NLT) - 19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Study Guide

1. How have you been feeling with Christmas just a few weeks away? Do you find its relative closeness to be anxiety-inducing, joyful, exciting, or anything in-between? The Christmas season often feels wildly different depending on our life circumstances. Some years, it's the best thing ever! Other years, it might as well be torture.
2. How have you understood what peace is? Take a moment and think of a time where you felt at peace, or imagine a peaceful image in your mind. What is it that makes such a memory or image peaceful?
3. The Bible clearly lays out for us that there is no true peace found in the world (Isaiah 59:1-10). The biblical image of peace is that of "wholeness and right relationship with God." Sin had torn the relationship between God and His creation, but Christ came so that we may be restored (Isaiah 59:15b-21). Therefore, our peace does not depend on our current life circumstances; we do not find wholeness or completeness in the world. Rather, God gives us peace—a peace that overcomes any conflict.
4. How might your life look differently if you committed to the truth that peace is found only in Jesus?