

# WEEK 4 PEACE FOR EVERYONE

## Message Notes Danny Anderson

Christmas is the story of how <u>everyone</u> can have peace with God.

But the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to **all** people." *Luke 2:10* 

"For God so loved the **world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not **perish** but have eternal life." *John 3:16* 

...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

"...who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4

"You have never locked eyes with another human being who isn't valuable to God." Bill Hybels

God wants to bring peace to all people through <u>you</u>.

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending **you**." *John 20:21* 

But **you** will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you** will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts* 1:8

"Every Christian is a missionary or an imposter." Charles Spurgeon

1. **Embrace** the vision personally.

God has given us this **task** of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave **us** this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's **ambassadors**; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" *2 Corinthans* 5:18-20

2. <u>Believe</u> that God can do it through you.

Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. *John 4:29-30* 

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had

said, "He told me everything I ever did!" John 4:40

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"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. *John* 1:46

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Revelation 18:1-24	MONDAY Revelation 19:1-22	TUESDAY Revelation 20:1-14		
this week	december 27	december 28	december 29		
WEDNESDAY Revelation 21:1-27	THURSDAY Revelation 22:1-21	FRIDAY Matthew 1:1-25	SATURDAY Matthew 2:1-23		
december 30	december 31	january 1	january 2		
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES 2 Corinthans 5:18-20					



# For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

#### Check-in

#### LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

#### OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD – What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE - State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Luke 2:8-10. Christmas is the story of the good news that everyone can have peace with God. In the space below, list some of the people in your life who need to have peace with God.

Friend	_Coworker
Family	_Neighbor

Pastor Bill Hybels wrote, "You have never locked eyes with another human being who isn't valuable to God." Read John 3:16-17, 2 Peter 3:1-9, & 1 Timothy 2:1-6. How do these passages illustrate and explain the value God places on every single person?

2. God has one primary plan for sharing His message of peace with others. Read John 20:19-21 & Acts 1:8. Put yourself in the disciple's place – what kinds of questions would have been going through your head as Jesus shared His plan for sharing the good news of peace with the world?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. Paul says that all who believe in Jesus are, "Christ's ambassadors." How would you explain the role of an ambassador? Many Christ followers believe this kind of work belongs to the paid staff of the church. Why are we so quick to think this is someone else's job?

3. Charles Spurgeon said, "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." Read the excerpt from Spurgeon's "A Sermon and a Reminiscence" below.

"If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself. You will be whispering it into your child's ear. You will be telling it to your husband. You will be earnestly imparting it to your friend. Without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent: your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of His sweet love.



# **Small Group Questions Continued**

Every Christian here is either a missionary or an impostor. Recollect that. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love Him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about Him... that man who says, 'I believe in Jesus,' but does not think enough of Jesus ever to tell another about Him...is an impostor."

Why do you think so many Christ followers struggle to embrace the role of missionary or ambassador?

Read John 4:1-30 & 39-42. This is the story of one woman who believed that God could work through her, therefore she embraced His call in a personal way. What would happen if every Christ follower believed God could work through them and embraced His call in a personal way? Is there anything keeping you from embracing God's call in a personal way? If so, what is it?

1. John Maxwell says, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Embracing the role of ambassador does not mean that we start preaching at people – it means we begin investing in the lives of others. Why is it so important to invest in people's lives?

How does investing in others open the door to inviting them to "come and see?"

What are some specific ways you can invest in the lives of those around you who need peace with God?

## **Action Step**

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are	
I'm accountable for	, and their action steps are
My memory verse is	
This coming week, I'm praying for:	