

The Missing Peace: Let There Be Light

Scripture used: [Luke 2:8-14](#)

OVERVIEW

During the Advent season, we intentionally slow down to reflect on the coming of Jesus—not only as a historical event, but as a present reality. Advent is marked by a simple but powerful prayer: “**Come, Jesus, come.**” It is a prayer we can return to throughout the day, especially when we feel overwhelmed, anxious, or distant from God. The Christmas story is familiar, but we can miss its deeper meaning. We often treat Christmas as a time to temporarily swap what feels dirty or broken in our lives for something clean and holy. In doing so, we miss the bigger picture—and when pieces are missing, peace is missing too. In a world that feels increasingly unstable and out of control, peace is essential. Biblical peace, *shalom*, is what keeps us from falling apart when life feels like it’s coming apart.

KEY POINTS

1. **Biblical peace is not the absence of problems—it is wholeness in the midst of them.** The peace announced at Jesus’ birth is not secular peace. Scripture uses the word *shalom*, which implies security and wholeness. Shalom is not about how we feel once circumstances improve; it is about how we navigate hardship with confidence in who God is and who we are to Him. Jesus clarified this for His disciples when He said, “*My peace I give you... not as the world gives*” ([John 14:27 \(NIV\)](#)). He offered peace even as He moved toward suffering and death.
2. **We need peace in the storm, not after it.** If peace only comes once life settles down, it cannot sustain us. Shalom provides security during the storm, not just recovery afterward. This is how we survive and remain grounded when circumstances do not change. The Christmas message is not detached from daily Christian living—it speaks directly to how we endure uncertainty, loss, and fear with Jesus at the center.
3. **God’s light meets us in the darkness.** The Christmas story begins in darkness, literally and spiritually. Scripture tells us that God brings light into darkness, starting at creation ([Genesis 1:1–4 \(NIV\)](#)). The birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy from the book of Isaiah that light would dawn on those living in darkness. John writes that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness ([John 1:4–5 \(NLT\)](#)). God does not wait for us to escape the darkness; He enters it with us.
4. **The light was not so God could see us—it was so we could see Him.** The shepherds lived on the margins of society, surrounded by darkness. When God’s light appeared, they were terrified. Yet the light was not about condemnation; it was about revelation. God wanted the shepherds to know that He was with them. The angel’s message is “*Do not be afraid... I bring you good news.*” ([Luke 2:10–11 \(NLT\)](#)).

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Christmas reminds us that God does not abandon us in darkness. Biblical peace—*shalom*—is the steady assurance that God is with us, even when life feels fractured. The birth of Jesus is God’s declaration that He enters our mess, our fear, and our uncertainty to bring lasting peace from the inside out. When you hear the phrase

“Come, Jesus, come,” what season or situation in your life does it make you think of right now?

- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Why do you think God chose to announce the arrival of the Prince of Peace to shepherds—people living on the margins—rather than to political or religious leaders, and what does that teach us about where God’s peace is first revealed?
- 3) **DO** - This week, practice the Advent prayer throughout your day: “**Come, Lord Jesus, come.**” Say it in moments of stress, fear, or disconnection. Let it remind you that God exists, He knows you, He sees you, He loves you—and He is with you. Invite someone to our upcoming [Christmas Celebration Gatherings or Special Christmas Eve Gathering](#).