

**Series Overview** | We live in a world that is filled with hopelessness. A place where peace is often fleeting, war is common, and conflict is constantly lurking around the corner. We live in a world where joy is lost in the hustle and bustle of life. Our world is one where love can feel empty. This is the world in which God sent His Son Jesus to come and save us from sin—to give mankind hope, peace, joy, and love. *Gifts Of Christmas* will remind us that because of the greatest Gift of all, we can have life and know how to share His hope, peace, joy, and love with the world. Each of these four sessions of this series will represent one of the traditional advent themes found in the story of Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | One of the consequences of sin is that it separates us from God. Our flesh is at war with God, and there is no peace. Throughout history, humankind has strived for true peace. This peace is not a political peace but a peace that God gives us because of the reconciliation that Jesus makes possible through his death and resurrection.

**Key Takeaway** | Where there is no peace, God became peace for us so that we can have peace with Him and with others.

**Scripture Focus** | Genesis 3:1-6, Luke 2:8-14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 1:18, Romans 5:1, 8-10, Ephesians 2:14, Romans 12:18

### ***Gifts of Christmas* | Session 2 Discussion Questions**

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You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

#### **Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking**

1. What are some things that are peaceful to you?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Genesis 3:1-6, Luke 2:8-14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 1:18, Romans 5:1, 8-10, Ephesians 2:14, Romans 12:18. What do these Scriptures teach you about God? What do they teach you about yourself?
2. Why do you think the top answer for the Miss America pageant, and others like it, always “Peace for the World”? Why do we lack peace in our world?
3. Do you think we will ever have peace? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think God is justified in hating sin?
5. Read Romans 5:8-10 again. How did Jesus make true peace possible?
6. How does salvation in Christ bring us peace?
7. How can you bring peace to others?
8. How can we live at peace with others this week? How can we do this especially with those we do not like?