

Peace in His Presence Discussion Questions

Read Luke 1:67-79

1. This week our advent theme is peace. Take some time to watch this video as a group. It gives you an overview of what the Bible is talking about when it talks about peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLYORLZOaZE&index=6&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeclOdfwWBawnNT5ZkGFHxBf>

a. How is the biblical definition of “peace” or “shalom” different than our culture’s?

2. What word or idea pops up more than any other in Zechariah’s prophecy?

a. The prophecy ends by explaining what John will do: he will prepare the way of the Lord. Zechariah explains the purpose of John’s ministry with three phrases that all begin with the word “to”. What are they?

b. The final phrase is “to guide our feet in the way of peace.” Peace here is a way, a path or lifestyle of wholeness. So John’s ministry and preaching is a guide to peace to peace. What did John preach?

3. Earlier we saw that there are several types of peace: personal inward, political, relational, and now we find spiritual which is a type of relational. The difference is that instead of focused on our relationship with other people, we are focused on our relationship with God.

a. When you think about peace, which of these types of peace comes to your mind first? Or what type of peace do you think the most about or what the most?

b. In Scripture, and in this passage, which type of peace gets priority?

c. Why does the Bible emphasize our peace with God over our personal inward peace?

4. What does this teach us about how we should go about pursuing inward peace?

5. Why is it still hard for Christians to walk in God's peace? What is it hard for you to walk in peace?

6. What does Phil 4:4-7 teach us about how to maintain this peace from God?

7. If Jesus is the Prince of Peace why does he say that he "did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Mk 10:34)?

a. What does this teach us about what our expectations should be as far as our relationships with others?