

## BIG IDEA

**When God became a man, peace became a possibility.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions? How do these traditions make you feel when everyone gets together for the holidays?

**As the leader, try to use this question to direct people to having fun memories of all the common Christmas traditions. These feelings will tie into the overall discussion about peace and shalom.**

**Read Luke 2:1-15.** What are your favorite parts of the Christmas story from Luke's account? How does this scene connect to the idea that Jesus brings peace on earth?

Can you think of other instances in Scripture where Jesus demonstrates crazy calm and perfect peace?

**Some examples are: the woman at the well, feeding the 5,000, the demon possessed man on the shore of Galilee, and His own crucifixion.**

**Read John 16:33.** How is this verse encouraging? How is this verse scary? What would your life look like if this verse was practiced every day?

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What do you do to maintain your peace in stressful, chaotic situations?

**Here's an interested TED talk by a neuro-scientist sharing how to keep calm in stressful situations:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jPQijsBblc>

Discuss your thoughts on the following quote from this week's message, "When you are at peace with God, you can face anything."

**Read Luke 2:14 again.** Do you believe that God's favor rests on you today? Why or why not? What's your "gut" reaction to the angels saying that God favors you?

How do surrender and peace work together? What stopping you from fully surrendering to God?

**Before letting people answer this question, ask them if you can write their answers down so you can commit to praying for them as their leader.**



## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Who do you know in your life that needs the peace that can only come from knowing and surrendering to Jesus?

Write down John 16:33 on a post-it note and stick it somewhere you will see it every day. Make a commitment to memorizing this passage over the next few weeks, and pay attention to how your thoughts and attitudes change as you do!

**If you don't have post-it notes, then any scrap of paper will work. Have everyone write this down and commit to putting it somewhere they can see. You will need to remember in a couple weeks to follow up on their commitments. Make sure you do this as well before you follow up!**

