



# Christmas at The Cove

## Week 2 – Experiencing Peace

### This Christmas Discussion Guide

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The carols and Nativity scenes all depict a silent, peaceful night. Yet there was conflict, fear, and chaos swirling around the Christ Child and the region of Bethlehem. Between schedules, financial pressures, far-flung families, and diverse personalities, the Christmas season can bring its own worries and conflict. But God encourages us to live in peace and dispense grace.

**What you will need:** A Bible or your Bible app, a notebook, pen, and highlighter. The verses highlighted below are linked so that you can easily access them during your study time.

#### **Jump Start**

1. What part of the Christmas season is the most peaceful for you? Is there an area that gives you some anxiety?
2. **Read [Philippians 2:1](#) in two versions.** If we belong to Christ, there should be some other evidence of that, as listed in this verse. What are they? Is this evidence reflected in your life? If you experience these things, what will be the outcome? **Read [Philippians 2:2](#).** What will the world see from the Body of Christ?
3. Step One to be encouraging and bring about peace this Christmas can be found in these verses. **Read [Ephesians 4:29](#) and [2 Timothy 2:23](#).** What practical steps do you find here? Where do you need to apply them? Share without getting into an argument with your Life Group!
4. Step Two, another important part of bringing about peace, is found in the phrase “if any tenderness and compassion” (Philippians 2:1, NIV). **Read [2 Corinthians 1:4](#), [John 14:16](#), and [Psalms 34:18](#).** Discuss how they encourage you. List practical ways for you to apply them.
5. **Final Thought: Read [Philippians 2:2](#) again.** How does our church do, if we are using this standard? Evaluate your life and attitudes. If you are a believer, apply this test to your own actions. What next step has God shown you for this week and entire holiday season?

### **Deeper**

6. The Prophet Isaiah had much to say about the coming Messiah. **Read [Isaiah 7:14](#)**. What do you think about this prophecy? Is it specific? Is it unique among other world religions? How so? How not?
  
7. **Read [Isaiah 9:6](#)**. What is significant about a “child is born” and a “son is given”? List the names foretold that Jesus would be called and would embody. Which is most marvelous to you? What do you make of the Messiah being both “a son” and “Everlasting Father”? **Read [Ephesians 2:14-18](#)**. How does this fulfill prophecy?
  
8. **Read [Isaiah 9:7](#)**. What do these prophecies tell you? What comfort do they give? Who will accomplish this? Compare these verses and questions to [Luke 1:30-35](#).