

## **The Christmas Gifts**

### **Week 2—Peace**

**Texts: Romans 5:1-11, Colossians 3:15, Philippians 4:7, Matthew 5:9**

#### **Ice Breaker**

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why? What conflicts were resolved in the movie?

#### **Processing Truth: Romans 5:1-11, focusing on verse 1, 6-11**

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. What does it mean to have “peace with God”? What keeps us from “peace with God”?
3. What is the “wrath of God”? What is God’s view of sin? Why does it matter?
4. Read Colossians 3:15 and Philippians 4:7. How would you describe the “peace of God”? What do these verses suggest about how to experience the “peace of God”?
5. Read Matthew 5:9. What does it mean to be a “peacemaker”? What does it not mean?
6. What keeps us from living at peace with others? Why is peace more than the absence of conflict?

#### **Applying Truth**

Choose one or more of the following sets of questions to discuss in pairs, other groupings, or whole group.

1. As you think about “peace with God,” can you describe what it was like for you to be “at war” with God?
2. What are some things in your life right now that are threatening your experience of the peace of God? What do you need from the group to help you strengthen the boundary?
3. Where is God calling you to be an ambassador of peace for God? Where is he calling you to be a peacemaker? What do you need from the group to help you process the situation? How might the group pray for you?

#### **Personal Prayer and Reflection**

Spend at least 30 minutes this week reflecting on your “peace.” Consider listening to the song “In Christ Alone” as a preparation and close to your prayer time.

- Think about what your life was like while you were in rebellion against him. Thank God for making peace with you through Jesus.
- Ask God to reveal to you the things that are threatening your experience of God’s peace. Invite the Holy Spirit to guard your heart and mind. (Phil. 4:7)
- Ask God to show you where and how he may be calling you to be a peacemaker.

