



Peace Within

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INTRODUCTION – Why don't we all just get along?

Seven Steps to Make Enemies

- 1) I feel vulnerable.
- 2) I am threatened or hurt by someone.
- 3) I feel fear, anger or sadness.
- 4) I decide they are an enemy.
- 5) I react to protect myself.
 - Fight – bear
 - Flight – rabbit
 - Freeze - possum
- 6) I change my life to ensure that I and my loved ones are safe.
- 7) I try to get rid of my enemy – destroy, escape or reconcile.

DINE IN – A new hope for peace on earth.

Luke 2:1-20

King is ruling who tries to bring peace through war

Parents are poor and scandalous, not wealthy or powerful

Born among animals, not royalty

Shepherds, not the religious elite, are welcomed to the party

Armies of God declare peace, not war

New king is born who will bring peace in a completely **different** way

TAKE OUT – God's peace must start within me.

Do I share God's heart for me to live in peace with everyone?
John 14:23-27; Matthew 5; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:14-21

Will I let God enter my weakness so that I am secure in him alone?
2 Corinthians 12:6-10

CONCLUSION – Do I need a bigger God living within me?

John 1:1-4, 14; Romans 8:31

Memory Verse:

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, NLT)

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What is one of your favourite Christmas memories and why?
2. Based on the illustration in the message of the bear (fight), rabbit (flight) and possum (freeze), what is your "go to" response when you encounter conflict or an enemy? What have you found is the result of this response – both pros and cons?

Look to the Book...

3. Take a moment to recap Sunday's teaching. Read through **Luke 2:1-20** again, in two versions or more if possible. a) As you read through the passage, even though it may be very familiar, what stands out as something new and significant as you hear it *this* time? b) Who do we see allowing God to enter their vulnerability and what are the outcomes? c) What other ways could God have brought peace on earth? d) Read **2 Corinthians 12:6-10**. How does this passage from Paul illustrate Mary and Joseph's experience? e) From the birth story of Jesus, how can we see that God's grace is sufficient and his power is shown to be perfect in our weakness?

So What...?

4. Based on what we talked about this week, how can your natural response (bear, rabbit, possum) be transformed by God's grace within you?
5. Christmas can definitely be one of those times when we wonder, "Why can't we all just get along?" In what relationships do you need to allow God to enter your vulnerability and help you be a peace-creator this Christmas? What will this practically look like for you?
6. How can we as a Home Church work together to help each other create peace on earth this Christmas season?
7. Take time to pray for each other in these areas and your next steps.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching or on your mobile device at youversion.com (go to Live and search for *The Meeting House*).