



LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

WEEK 4 | PEACE ON EARTH | LUKE 2:1-21

Inspection – “What does it say?”

According to verse 14, to what extent does the Glory of God reach?

On whom does God’s favor rest? (verse 14)

What does verse 19 reveal about Mary’s heart?

According to verse 21, when was Jesus given His name?

What is the meaning of His name?

How many ways did the message of God’s favor affect the actions of the shepherds?

Observation – “What does it mean?”

Of what would the heavenly host be aware that shepherds could not imagine?

How is peace a by-product of something greater?

What is another word for God’s favor in Scripture? Why is God so favorable?

What might be the reason the name of “Jesus” was revealed to Mary before His conception? (verse 21)

When does peace come into the life of those on the earth?

Life Application – “What does it mean for me?”

Consider the events surrounding Jesus’ birth and how timely Jesus’ peace was (and still is) needed.

Pray for peace in the many areas of conflict and war in our world.

Ask God to change your heart to show favor on all people.

Post a message of peace on your social media this week.

Stop in this Christmas season and practice a James 1:27 approach to your celebration.

Meditation – “What does God say?”

John 16:33

Isaiah 26:3

Matthew 5:9

Romans 12:18

2 Corinthians 13:11

Philippians 4:6-7

Colossians 3:15

Romans 12:18

Supplication: What Can We Meditate?

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced? How much blood has been shed? How many lives have been shattered? How many hopes have been buried? But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace; teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war! With war everything is lost." Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, You created us and You call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace. Enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred," and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother," and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Prayer for Peace by Jorge Mario Bergoglio