



## 12.05.10/Isaiah 9:6 – PRINCE OF PEACE

### Materials needed

A baby name book (or you could look up what everyone's name means beforehand on the internet)

### Activity

What's in a name? One of the many exciting decisions a mom and dad make when they are preparing to start their family is choose a name for their new little baby! Some people choose a name that has been used many times in their family, others choose a name because they like the meaning, and others just choose a name that they think sounds nice. Sometimes friends and family add additional nicknames that fit a certain aspect of someone's personality. Go around the circle and look up what everyone's names mean. Let the children share stories (if they know them) of why their parents chose that name for them, as well as any nicknames they might have. Isaiah tells us several names that the coming Messiah will have – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Those are big names to live up to! But Jesus was all those things, even as a little baby! Tell the children that tonight we are going to talk about one of Jesus' names – Prince of Peace.

### Read Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born; to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

You don't have to look too hard to see that our world is in desperate need of peace. The Israelites used the word "Shalom" to talk about true peace – not just a lack of violence, but wholeness, fulfillment, harmony, and complete restoration with God and everything He has created. Because of all of our sin in the world, we lack shalom with others, ourselves, Creation, and with God. Tonight we are going to talk about how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy to bring shalom, and how he was and is and will always be the Prince of Peace.

### Question 1

Because of sin, there is no peace among people. What are some examples of this? *The answers unfortunately are many, but may include racism, stealing from one another, getting and staying mad at others, etc. Please consider the age and understanding of the kids in your group when you discuss examples.*

### Question 2

The sin in our own hearts definitely causes discord. Think about your relationships with your friends and family. What are some ways that sin has destroyed peace in those relationships? *Answers can include: jealousy, gossip, divorce, abuse, quarreling, disobeying your parents, fighting with your siblings, etc.*

### Question 3

What are some examples that show that we are not at peace within ourselves, because of our sin and brokenness? *Allow everyone to share as much as they feel comfortable sharing – answers may include low self-esteem, unhealthy self-image, addictions, etc. Again, please be sensitive to the age and understanding of the kids in your group when discussing examples of this.*

### Question 4

Because of our sin, we are not at peace with God's creation. What is the evidence of this in our world today? *Oil spills, water pollution, endangered/extinction of animals, deforestation, natural disasters, nuclear waste, etc.*

### Discussion



Most importantly, our sin has separated us from God. God is holy. Because we are broken and unholy due to our sin, we are have to live apart from God unless we know Jesus. This is where the long-awaited Messiah comes in! Jesus, our Prince of Peace, came to this earth, living as a man, and lived a perfect life. He had no sin of his own, so when he chose to sacrifice himself on a cross, the debt he was paying was not his, but OURS! He died in our place – and cleansed all of our sins away! Because of Jesus, we are now forgiven and can be right with God. He has restored shalom, and that is why he is the Prince of Peace for those who believe in Him!

**Read Romans 5:1**

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jesus is our Prince of Peace! Celebrate the peace that he brings by sharing ways that he has brought and is continuing to bring peace to your own life. *Take some time as a group to praise God for the amazing works he has done in each other's lives!*

**Reflection**

It is tempting to get caught up with superficial things like gifts Santa and decorations during the holidays. Share ways that you as a group can keep your focus on what Advent is really about – the celebration of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Challenge yourselves to keep in mind the descriptions Isaiah uses for the Messiah as you go through this holiday season – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace!

**Wrap Up**

Close in prayer by thanking God for restoring shalom between us and Him, for sending us a Prince of Peace, Jesus! Pray that God would use you to bring peace to those that you come into contact with during this holiday season. Pray that God would continue to establish his Kingdom here on earth, restoring shalom to our world.