Jesus: Our Prince of Peace

As we celebrate Christmas and re-tell the story of baby Jesus—the Savior of the world born in a lowly manger—may we also remember that he is the one the prophet Isaiah called the "Prince of Peace." As we study the story of Jesus' birth, we will reflect on the real need for this peace in our lives today. Together, we will dig into Scripture to discover the deep and meaningful *shalom* that Jesus brought to us in his birth, a peace that he promises to establish permanently when he returns. It's this peace that we share as his witnesses to the world.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is peace? How do you define *shalom*? Are *shalom* and peace the same thing, similar, or different?
- Where in your life do you need peace?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Jesus: Our Prince of Peace

READ Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, Luke 2:1-21

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Are there situations in your life in which you need God's intervention because they're out of your control? Reread Psalm 137 and write a psalm of your own about your situation.
- Where do you see *shalom* "vandalized" around you?
- Do you think we, like the Israelites, forget that our purpose is to be "cross-cultural missionaries to let God's salvation be known" Do you think there's a connection between this forgetfulness and our tendency to vandalize *shalom*? Why or why not?
- As we celebrate Christ's first coming, we're also thinking about his second coming. What do you long for most from Jesus' return? Host Darrell Delaney cites Acts 2:42-47 as an example of where we catch a glimpse of the fullness of God's kingdom. Where do you see glimpses of God's kingdom already in your life or community?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 9:1-7, Acts 2:42-47, Romans 8:18-28

CONCLUSION

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring *shalom* to the chaos we, in our sin, have created and will make us the light and witness to the better things of God. As the episode concludes, Darrell reminds us that Jesus demonstrated peace in how he lived and treated people; we are called to imitate him. Then, Scott talks about Ephesians 2:14: "We are called to break down the barriers and to become one, across racial lines, ethnic lines, socioeconomic lines, all lines. We are called to be one." Think about the situations you identified above. How can you live as Jesus did, being an agent of transformation, and working toward reconciliation, peace, and *shalom* in your corner of creation?

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