

Walking Past the Gift Shop

“ How to Find Peace in the Christmas Story ”

1. Remember the Spiritual War Rev. 12:1-5

2. Identify Your Battles Eph. 6:12

3. Put Your Hope in the Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6-7



Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

Point #1

1. Read Rev. 12:1-5. The symbolic imagery reveals the deeper spiritual reality behind Christ's birth. What truths about Jesus and the nature of evil does this passage communicate that the "sentimental" Christmas story misses?
2. How does knowing the real story change the way you experience this season?

Point #2

1. Paul says our struggle is "not against flesh and blood." How does Ephesians 6 reshape our understanding of conflict, suffering, and temptation?
2. Where in your life do you tend to "fight the wrong enemy" by seeing a person or circumstance as the real problem instead of the spiritual battle beneath it?
3. In what ways have you been tempted to shrink Jesus, turning Him into a sentimental figure or a personal assistant, rather than submitting to Him as King?

Point #3

1. Jesus says He must be "lifted up" like the bronze serpent in Numbers 21. What does this reveal about substitution, judgment, and the kind of peace Jesus brings?
 2. Where in your life do you need to experience peace by recognizing the presence of the victorious King?
 3. What would it look like this week to submit a specific area of your life to Jesus' kingship rather than trying to control it?
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Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read: Revelation 12:1-5

- What part of Revelation 12 challenges your usual picture of Christmas the most?
- Where in your life do you need to remember that Jesus' coming represents a decisive victory, not just a quiet birth?
- What situation today looks chaotic or threatening and how might it change if you viewed it through the lens of Christ's cosmic triumph?

TUESDAY // Read: Genesis 3:14-15; Isaiah 9:6-7

- How does seeing Jesus as the promised "seed of the woman" deepen your understanding of His birth?
- Which title in Isaiah 9 speaks most to you right now?
- Where do you feel like the enemy is "trying to devour" hope in your life and what promise of God pushes against this?

WEDNESDAY // Read: Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Kings 6:15-17

- Where do you see yourself slipping into a purely material or secular view of life?
- How might your perspective on a current conflict change if you believed, like Elisha's servant, that "those who are with us are more than those who are with them"?
- What battle have you been fighting at the wrong level (flesh and blood) instead of spiritual forces?

THURSDAY // Read: 1 Peter 5:6-10

- What "note inside you" (fear, anger, insecurity, shame) does the enemy frequently try to play?
- How does Peter's command to "resist him, firm in the faith" connect to your situation?
- Where do you need to allow God to "restore, establish, strengthen, and support" you today?

FRIDAY // Read John 3:14-17; Numbers 21:4-9

- How does the bronze serpent story help you grasp the meaning of the cross more vividly?
- Where do you need to "look up" to Christ instead of trying to heal yourself?
- What would it change for you emotionally today to remember that Jesus was "treated like the dragon so you could be treated like a child"?

SATURDAY // Read Colossians 1:15-20; Matthew 11:28-30

- Which phrase in Colossians 1 about Christ's supremacy stands out most and why?
- Where in your life have you resisted Jesus' kingship or tried to negotiate with Him instead of surrendering?