



glory to  
God in the  
highest;  
peace on earth,  
good will toward  
men

LUKE 2:14



This season may bring forth images of sugarplums dancing, Pinterest worthy Christmas trees and picture perfect mantles with thoughtful advent calendars and perfectly posed family pictures on Christmas cards, rounded out by joyful Christmas parties and freshly baked cookies. While some of these images are bright and shiny and even achievable, the reality of the dark world is all around us. Most days, the news is unavoidable, people's actions are inconceivable, and it is all quite unsettling. But we push on; seeking peace in our own little corner of the world.

*"Glory to God in the Highest; peace on earth, good will toward men." Luke 2:14*

If we think about peace, especially as parents, we might longingly think of peace and quiet. Stillness. However, this is not often achievable in our days filled with school events, carpool duties, dance recitals, piano practice, sporting events, house cleaning, lunch packing . . . the list goes on and on, and we are overwhelmed by busyness, often missing a great gift God has given us. BUT, beyond the sacrificial gift of grace, Jesus has given us peace. Peace between us and God. This gift is available to everyone - to all people, all the time.

Upon Jesus' birth in a manger in Bethlehem, the angels proclaimed the good news (Luke 2:9-14):

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Packed in this pivotal piece of Scripture that represents the reason for the season are universal gifts - available "to all people." The "good tidings of great joy" is the news of the birth of our Savior - One who brings us great joy, despite what the world around us looks like. We are to praise God on earth up to the heavens for sending a Savior. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

If we continue reading Luke 2, it says "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (v. 16). I have to believe God the Father wants us to respond in the same way; come with haste, this Christmas season, to soak in the peace that only Jesus can provide.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

● ○ ○ FORMOM

How can you foster an element of peace among the hustle and bustle of holiday activities?

Is there a time during the day when you can be intentional about soaking in the magic and peace Mary experienced?

Reflect on the true joy this season brings.

● ● ○ FOR KIDS

What is one of your favorite Christmas Traditions?

What would bring you great joy?



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