

# MAKING PEACE

AN ADVENT TEACHING SERIES . 2009



## questions for reflection

### series: "Making Peace"

Peace is a word thrown around casually and without much understanding. It is simultaneously a cause, the absence of conflict, a desired state of mind, and the hopeful resting place of those deceased. But the advent (arrival) of Jesus offers us peace in place of enmity – peace with God, peace with each other, and peace within our self. Therefore as Christ followers, what does it look like to follow Jesus by making peace in our daily rhythms, lives, and world?

### part 1:

#### "Making Peace"

by Chip Anderson on Tuesday December 1, 2009

Advent is a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." It is the season that starts the Church calendar and it is a time of anticipating and waiting for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas.

- Most of us hate to wait. Why?
- Western Culture has developed a tendency toward immediacy as opposed to delayed gratification. Most of the world doesn't have the ability to get what they want when they want like we can.
  - o What factors have led us to such a "now" mentality?
  - o How do personally experience that?
- What are you most anticipating this Christmas time?
- How are your holiday priorities are in line with themes of Advent (i.e. hope, peace, joy and love)?
  - o How might your priorities need to be reset in order to align with the themes of Advent?

The word found in the Bible most often translated "peace" is the Hebrew word "shalom." Shalom is a word with a deep meaning. Its component parts are: peace, welfare, safety, health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, contentment, friendship with other and with God, lack of conflict, happiness, favor, blessing, a state of favorable circumstances, salvation, satisfaction, at ease and unconcerned.

- Which of the parts of shalom fit into your understanding of peace?
- Which parts are missing from you understanding of peace?
- How can one cultivate a fuller more complete sense of peace in their life?

Isaiah describes the coming Messiah, who Christ-followers understand to be Jesus, as the Prince of Peace.

- In what ways do you see Jesus making peace in the Bible and in your world?
- The church has not always been an agent of true peace. Where can you see the church and Jesus differ on ways of making peace?
- If peace is a person, what implication does this have for developing a relationship with Jesus?
- If Jesus is our source of peace, how does a person tap into this resource when conflicts arise, frustrations mount, or life become chaotic?

During this time of Advent when we TNL is focusing on making peace:

- Where in your life do you need to be making peace?
  - o What might this peace making look like for you (confession, forgiveness, confrontation, acceptance, love, etc.)?
- How can you make peace in your family, with your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers, your enemies?