



## CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL FOR ADULTS

“Last night I couldn’t go to bed. My brother-in-law has been fighting an aggressive form of brain cancer. I had received word driving home from work that he needed emergency Gamma Knife radiation surgery. This would be round two. He has a wife (my sister) and three beautiful and amazing teenagers. Needless to say, I had no peace until I was reminded of this verse:

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**’” – Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

Merry Christmas!  
Desi Jimenez  
Pastor of Groups, Gables Campus

As we celebrate the arrival of Jesus the Messiah, let us take a moment to remember that He is our true source of peace. The prophet Isaiah, years before Jesus’ birth, called Him “The Prince of Peace.” How have you experienced peace this Christmas season? Regardless of what has transpired, Christ has been born, and His peace is available to you today.

As we reflect over the last several weeks in the life of our church, we have learned that “in Jesus” we can have: Peace on earth, Peace of mind, Peace at home, and Peace with God.

That first Christmas, peace came in the form of a baby. Can you believe it?

The Bible says in John chapter 1, “The Word (that’s God) became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” (MSG). When Jesus “moved into the neighborhood,” He became fully accessible to us all. That means that the little baby born into a “mangy” place was the embodiment of God himself, rushing into our human existence to say, “I’m here to rescue you!”

But how did He do this?

He didn't assume the position of a powerful king; but rather, He lived with humility to show that His kingdom was not of this world but a heavenly one. His purpose was not to rule over a nation, but to conquer the curse of sin and death.

Jesus told his disciples just before going to the cross, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27 (NIV)

Thus, we can live our lives today with the kind of peace that "transcends all understanding." Phil 4:7 (NIV)

During Christmas, we celebrate the truth that Jesus is the light of the world. He is the light that no dark place can overcome. We can rest in that fact. Whether young, old, married or single, every single one of us needs this constant reminder in our lives!

"I bring you good news of great joy to all the people. The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord -- has been born today in Bethlehem. And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12 (NLT)

Take a moment during your Christmas meal to reflect on those moments in your life when you've experienced His peace. Soak it in and find rest in the fact that He is your Prince of Peace this Christmas season.

