

Connecting:

1. Would you rather eat 2 pounds of Christmas sugar cookies or drink two pounds of eggnog?
2. What is the best white elephant gift you have given or received?
3. What are things you have done to not lose the real message of Christmas among all the American culture surrounding Christmas?

Application: Peace on earth is destroyed by sin

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-9 and Romans 11:33-36. How would you describe our cultures overall outlook on the world being good? (meaning the people in it and our ability to trust them)
2. What does peace on earth look like? What would have to happen for a person to say, "this is a peaceful place?"
3. After discussing this, how do the words, "peace on earth, good will to men," come across to you?
4. What is the peace of God? How are we as Christians able to sing that line given the world in which we live?
5. In his sermon Roger said, "The root issue is not how to make frustrated humanity happy, but how to satisfy a righteous, just, and offended God." How would you describe this to someone who is struggling to believe in God because of the sin that is currently in the world?

Application: Peace with God is beyond our capability and peace from God is beyond our understanding.

1. Read Romans 5:1-2. Why do you think peace with God through works is attractive to so many?
2. In what ways does the concept of having peace with God through works still seep into your personal relationship with him? How have you caught yourself thinking this way?
3. What truths have you meditated on to break out of believing that lie?
4. How would you describe the difference in the way a person rejoices, who relies on good works for peace with God, versus one who rejoices in peace through faith in Christ's good work?
5. Read Philippians 4:4-7. Why is it called peace beyond understanding? How does this enable us to celebrate?

Reading Plan

12/15 Isaiah 9:6-7

12/16 Romans 5:1-2

12/17 2 Timothy 1:8-9

12/18 Romans 11:33-36

12/19 John 14:27

12/20 Philippians 4:4-7

12/21 Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 5:1-2

