



## NO PEACE? KNOW THE PRINCE OF PEACE!

### Good News to Know

Did you know Jesus wants you to live your life filled with *His Peace*? Isaiah 9:6 even calls Jesus the "Prince of Peace." Having the kind of **peace** that only Christ can bring begins with you being at **peace** with Him. For example: If you disobey your mom or dad, they still love you; however, your disobedience breaks your **peaceful** and close relationship with them for awhile. Because of your disobedience, they may even choose to ignore you when you ask them for something. Having **peace** with God is kind of like that.

Isaiah 59:2 explains it this way, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

The words "iniquities" and "sins" mean "anything not living up to God's standards." Your sins keep you from having a close relationship with God and will even keep you from going to heaven if you've not been "born into" God's family. But here's the good news you need to know: When you turn away from your sinful behavior, and put your faith in Jesus Christ, God forgives all your sin and you are born again and become a permanent member of God's family. Knowing the Prince of Peace brings you true **peace** and hope.

### Talk About It | Read each question aloud and share your thoughts.

1. **Read** John 3:3 and fill in the blanks to find what Jesus says we must do to go to heaven when we die: *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is \_\_\_\_\_."*
2. You were *physically* born into an earthly family. But Jesus, the Prince of Peace, says you must be *spiritually* born into God's family to call yourself a Christian! **Read** the following verses and fill in the blanks to see how to be re-born as a child of God:
  - a. *Yet to all who \_\_\_\_\_, to those who \_\_\_\_\_, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12*
  - b. *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever \_\_\_\_\_ shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*
  - c. *I write these things to you who \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13*
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_, then, and \_\_\_\_\_, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19
  - e. *If we \_\_\_\_\_, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*



3. **How** will your relationship change with your mom or your dad if you humbly ask for forgiveness? **Re-read** Acts 3:19 and 1 John 1:9. **Tell** what happens in your relationship with God when you ask Him for forgiveness.

**True Story** | One night a mother went upstairs to say prayers with her two young sons before they went to bed. She noticed that one of them had colored a picture on the bedroom wall. Both were old enough to know better. She asked, “Boys, who drew on the wall?” Chad, the younger brother, said, “Mommy, I did!” Knowing that someone would surely be punished for the wrongdoing, Clint (the older brother) said, “Mom, I know Chad did it, but he is so little. Would you spank me instead?” Even Clint knew that all bad behavior required discipline. He loved his little brother so much that he wanted to take Chad’s punishment!

Jesus did for you what Clint did for Chad. He took the discipline that you deserved—for every sin you have ever done in the past, or will ever do in the future. You can’t earn a place in heaven because of your sins, and actually you deserve the punishment of hell. But Jesus loves you so much that He took your discipline for you by dying on the cross!

4. If you confess your sins to God and believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sins when He died on the cross, then Jesus will give you **peace** even when you feel hopeless. If you have given your life and heart to Jesus, the *Prince of Peace*, **tell** the group about it!

**Live It** | If you have not prayed to be born into God’s family, you can do it right now! Silently pray in your heart agreeing with God that you are a sinner. Ask Him to forgive your sins. Next, Thank Him for sending Jesus to take the punishment you deserved when He died on the cross. Tell God that you want to obey His teachings so you become more like Jesus. Finally, thank God for His presence in your life! If you just now gave your heart to the *Prince of Peace*, **raise** your hand so everyone can share in your joyful decision!

**Read It** | Search God’s Truth for answers to the discussion questions.

**John 3:3** Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

**John 1:12** Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

**John 3:16** (*Love Memory Verse*) (*Jesus speaking*) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**1 John 5:13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Acts 3:19** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Know It** | PEACE is quietness, rest, contentment and absence of anger toward others and ourselves. It is being without anxiety or worry. True peace comes from trusting God’s wisdom and sovereignty more than our own.