

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Advent 2017 Message Series
“Go Deeper” Outline for Small Group or Individual Use Week #1
War & Peace



Introduction: At this time of year we frequently hear references to Jesus as “The Prince of Peace.” And so our message series this Advent will be on peace. Peace, not just between countries, but between individuals and families as well as peace within our own selves. How is God calling you to be an instrument of His peace?

Summary of Advent Series “Peace: War & Peace” Week #1: As humans there is nothing we can do about eclipses, we can perhaps lessen the destruction of hurricanes by limiting our “carbon footprint,” but we can do something about preventing nuclear war since war is a fully human activity.

Opening Prayer: From scripture read and reflect on **Mark 13:33-37**

- What specifically touched you in this Gospel?
- What does this Gospel mean to you?

GO DEEPER with the VIDEO & HOMILY: Watch (or review) the video and read (or review) “First Sunday of Advent Homily” provided on the parish website:

www.seasp.org

Individual Reflection or Discussion Questions:

1. What from the message video stood out to you this week?
2. What part of the “message” (homily) stood out to you this week?
3. Describe your understanding of peace. What gives you peace today?
4. Each Sunday we profess in the Nicene Creed that we believe that Jesus “will come again to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.” Do you believe what you profess? Does that change how you live each day?
5. Had you heard of the “Just War Theory” before this week? What new insight did you gain about it? What do you struggle with in terms of this theory?
6. How is God calling you to be an instrument of His peace this Advent?
7. How will you promote world peace this week?

Quote to Ponder: *“What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family. –St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Scripture to ponder this week: *“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” –Mark 13:33*

Closing Prayer- Feel free to choose an option from below, combine options, or conclude with your own prayer. It’s up to the group and the Holy Spirit!

Option A:

A group member leads the group through the following intercessions-

Leader: *That leaders of nations that are in turmoil may follow the leadership of Pope Francis and value the process toward peace, we pray to the Lord.....*

(All) Lord hear our prayer.

For peace both internationally and in our own country, that all people will value the absence of conflict and the presence of God who provides hope, we pray to the Lord...Lord hear our prayer.

For all those whose lives are deeply affected by the lack of peace in our world--that the Holy Spirit will send leaders who are instruments of peace and justice, we pray to the Lord.....Lord hear our prayer.

For peace that heals all wounds, for peace that guarantees safety, for peace that lives in our hearts and homes, we pray to the Lord...Lord hear our prayer.

That our prayers for peace will rise up like incense, and that all people will know hope and safety in their lives, we pray to the Lord...Lord hear our prayer.

What else should we pray for today? (Group members can share at this time anything that is on their heart and would like the group to offer up in prayer.)

Option B:

Listen to the song “Prayer of St. Francis”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agPnMxp5Occ> as a group

Option C: Take a 3 Minute Peace Retreat together as a group:

<https://goo.gl/rxht2a>

Option D: Recite the “Prayer of St. Francis” as a group.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.