

Personal/Group Training Guide  
Week of 12/9/18

## THE SIMPLICITY OF CHRISTMAS

### “Peace on Earth”

- (1) The angel comes to the shepherds proclaiming “On earth peace to those on whom His favor rests” (Luke 2:14). Who has God’s favor? How do we know?
- (2) Pax Romana is a Roman term used to describe the “peace” of Rome. This “peace” was achieved by the utter destruction of anyone who opposed the Empire. When Rome would conquer an area, they would allow the inhabitants the opportunity to swear allegiance to the Empire. Anyone who refused to do that was crucified. This was what “peace” looked like in Jesus’ time, does peace look the same or different today? How?
- (3) The “peace” that God offers looks different than the peace of the world. Look up these verses and discuss what God’s peace looks like. (John 3:16, Luke 9:23-24, Luke 23:34)
- (4) Compare the “Peace of Rome” with the “Peace” that God offers...which do we want?
- (5) What about “Peace” versus safety and security?
- (6) If “Peace” means that we have to forgive, do we still want it? How do these lead to peace?
  - (a) Forgiveness of Others
  - (b) Forgiveness of Self