

# SG

Your *group* matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*We have all been putting up Christmas ornaments on trees our whole lives. What is/was your favorite ornament and why?*

1. Have you ever said something like, "I have a peace about it", when facing a circumstance in your life? If so, how did you define "peace" and how did that affect your next steps?
2. Pastor Tony said, "A question for God doesn't always equal questioning God." As with Mary in [Luke 1:26-34](#), God sometimes allows/brings situations into our lives that leads us to ask questions like "why?", "how?" or "when?". When you ask these questions, do you find them to be expressions of faith or unbelief?
3. Read [Luke 1:35-38](#). Pastor Tony concludes that "...your peace isn't about your 'what,' but about your 'Who.'" If you have said your own personal 'YES!' to Jesus, what about your relationship with Him brings you peace no matter your circumstances?
4. Read [Matthew 1:16-24](#) and consider how God disturbed Joseph's peace in order to invite him to participate in the greatest event in human history. How can joining God in what He is doing bring you peace even if it wreaks havoc in your daily life?
5. Pastor Tony declared that "God's peace isn't about feelings, but about foundation." That first Christmas the angels declared that Jesus is the only foundation for peace with God and each other; and today Jesus invites you to enter His peace. What questions do you have about Jesus and His peace, and what is keeping you from saying 'YES!' to Him today?

Day One: [Luke 15](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 9](#)

Day Three: [Philippians 2](#)

Day Four: [Revelation 16](#)

Day Five: [Song of Songs 5](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

## PERSONAL GUIDE



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH



MYRC.CHURCH



**MESSAGE NOTES**

# "I (Don't) Have a Peace About It"

Pastor Tony Myles

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [John 1:1, 14](#)

One of our classic reactions to life is \_\_\_\_\_.  
We feel this most often at Christmas through \_\_\_\_\_.  
Christmas can also be a time when our \_\_\_\_\_ get \_\_\_\_\_.

In these uncertain times, people are looking for something more. When the world around us seems to be falling to pieces (and perhaps also our personal lives), we \_\_\_\_\_ discover how to experience real peace this Christmas.

What are your expectations for a "peace-full" \_\_\_\_\_?  
What are your expectations for a "peace-full" \_\_\_\_\_?

Christians and not-yet-Christians can often look to \_\_\_\_\_ a decision or situation by saying, "I have a \_\_\_\_\_ about it."  
Likewise, we reject things that we feel \_\_\_\_\_ about.  
When is that accurate...and when is it a \_\_\_\_\_?

### Case Study: Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

v.26a: As God invites you into His Story, He's also working in \_\_\_\_\_.  
v.26b-27: Mary's life was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous \_\_\_\_\_.  
v.28: God wanted Mary to know \_\_\_\_\_. He also wants you to know.  
v.29: Notice Mary's initial reaction...it wasn't \_\_\_\_\_...but it did involve \_\_\_\_\_...why?  
v.30-33: God is always telling a \_\_\_\_\_ filled with a \_\_\_\_\_.  
v.34: A \_\_\_\_\_ for God doesn't always equal \_\_\_\_\_ God...the difference is between skeptical unbelief vs. \_\_\_\_\_ curiosity.  
v.35-37: How do you respond when God wants to "\_\_\_\_\_ " you?  
v.38: Mary received a \_\_\_\_\_ with God with \_\_\_\_\_ openness.

- What if true peace isn't about your "what" but your " \_\_\_\_\_ "?

### Case Study: Joseph (Matthew 1:16-24)

v.16-17: Yet again, we see God at work in others for the bigger \_\_\_\_\_...and \_\_\_\_\_!  
v.18a: We tend to work the plan \_\_\_\_\_ to us.  
v.18b-19: "Faithful to the Law, and yet..."/*tsadiq* - what it's like to live right and not have everything go right...yet \_\_\_\_\_?  
v.20-23: What appears to be a disappointment can actually be a \_\_\_\_\_.  
v.24: Joseph allowed a God he "knew" to still \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
v.25: In a "what's in it for me" culture, take in how Joseph doubled-down on being \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_.

- What if true peace involves seeing what God is doing, and choosing to \_\_\_\_\_ Him in it?

### How can I find Christmas peace?

What about all the times we read about when God clearly spoke to people who didn't have a "peace" about it?

- God's peace isn't about feelings but about \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joseph and Mary certainly had their \_\_\_\_\_ to the "disruption" of God's will for their lives...yet ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- When presented with God's will, they didn't demand circumstantial "peace," but \_\_\_\_\_ into the "\_\_\_\_\_."

What if the greatest thing in your life would be that you get to take part in even just the \_\_\_\_\_ for the world?

- Like Mary, let wonder erupt into \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Like Joseph, expect that right living still involves being \_\_\_\_\_.
- Peace is not about coming to terms with something, but \_\_\_\_\_.

**Don't miss this...**  
**The only way to step through natural disappointments and struggles is by stepping toward \_\_\_\_\_.**

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



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## MESSAGE NOTES

# "I (Don't) Have a Peace About It"

Pastor Tony Myles

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [John 1:1, 14](#)*

### One of our classic reactions to life is word association.

We feel this most often at Christmas through traditions.

**Christmas can also be a time when our expectations get tested.**

In these uncertain times, people are looking for something more. When the world around us seems to be falling to pieces (and perhaps also our personal lives), we can discover how to experience real peace this Christmas.

What are your expectations for a "peace-full" Christmas?

What are your expectations for a "peace-full" life?

**Christians and not-yet-Christians can often look to justify a decision or situation by saying, "I have a peace about it."**

Likewise, we reject things that we feel uneasy about.

When is that accurate...and when is it a cop-out?

### Case Study: Mary ([Luke 1:26-38](#))

v.26a: As God invites you into His Story, He's also working in others.

v.26b-27: Mary's life was filled with plans and righteous faithfulness.

v.28: God wanted Mary to know Truth He also wants you to know.

v.29: Notice Mary's initial reaction...it wasn't peace...but it did involve wonder... why?

v.30-33: God is always telling a larger Story filled with a larger love.

v.34: A question for God doesn't always equal questioning God...the difference is between skeptical unbelief vs. wonder-filled curiosity.

v.35-37: How do you respond when God wants to "overshadow" you?

v.38: Mary received a relationship with God with personalized openness.

- What if true peace isn't about your "what" but your "Who"?

### Case Study: Joseph ([Matthew 1:16-24](#))

v.16-17: Yet again, we see God at work in others for the bigger Story...and you're invited!

v.18a: We tend to work the plan modeled to us.

v.18b-19: "Faithful to the Law, and yet..."/tsadiq - what it's like to live right and not have everything go right...yet still choose to do it right?

v.20-23: What appears to be a disappointment can actually be a destiny.

v.24: Joseph allowed a God he "knew" to still WOW him and move him.

v.25: In a "what's in it for me" culture, take in how Joseph doubled-down on being righteous vs. selfish.

- **What if true peace involves seeing what God is doing, and choosing to join Him in it?**

### How can I find Christmas peace?

What about all the times we read about when God clearly spoke to people who didn't have a "peace" about it?

- God's peace isn't about feelings but about foundation.

Joseph and Mary certainly had their first reactions to the "disruption" of God's will for their lives...yet ultimately reset to God.

- When presented with God's will, they didn't demand circumstantial "peace," but stepped into the "hard."

What if the greatest thing in your life would be that you get to take part in even just the  tiniest part of God's plan for the world?

- Like Mary, let wonder erupt into worship.
- Like Joseph, expect that right living still involves being surprised.

Peace is not about coming to terms with something, but Someone.

**Don't miss this...**

**The only way to step through natural disappointments and struggles is by stepping toward Jesus supernaturally.**

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*MYRC.LINK/**CONNECT** or text **riverside** to **94000**



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