

## Home Group Reading for December 10-December 17, 2023

"And you, my little son,  
will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
because you will prepare the way for the  
Lord.

<sup>77</sup> You will tell his people how to find salvation  
through forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> Because of God's tender mercy,  
the morning light from heaven is about to  
break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and  
in the shadow of death,  
and to guide us to the path of peace." Luke  
1:76-79

The people who walk in darkness  
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,  
a light will shine.

For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His government and its peace  
will never end. (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

### Excerpts

"Conflict took place in every year of the 20th Century; the world was free from the violence caused by war for only very short periods of time. It has been estimated that 187 million people died as a result of war from 1900 to the present. The actual number is likely far higher."

Imperial War Museum

"When we follow Jesus we find our feet on the path of peace. If the path is not peaceable, the path is not following Jesus." Brian Zahnd

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.

## Reflection Questions

1. Do you think there's ever a time that war is a viable solution toward peace?
2. Is there a war or global conflict that brings you the most trouble in your soul these days?  
What is it specifically about this that bothers you more than others?
3. What are ways that we can walk the "path of peace" to address global conflicts?
4. Share a story of how you've "kept the peace" through avoiding others. How has this worked out for you long term?
5. What are some alternative ways of walking the "path of peace" with these individuals?