**The Gift of Christmas**

**Peace on Earth (Luke 2:14)**

**Introduction:**

* **Luke 2:14**
* **The Words “Peace on Earth” often grace Christmas Cards, Decorations and Songs during the holiday season. Yet when we look around, peace can seem elusive in our personal lives and the world at large. Wars, conflicts, stress, and division dominate the headlines and our hearts.**
* **But peace proclaimed by the angels to shepherds on the first Christmas is not an abstract idea or temporary feeling-it is a real, transformative peace found in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.**
* **Today we will explore how Jesus brings peace and how we, as followers, are called to live as peacemakers.**

1. **The Source of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7)**
   1. **The prophecy of Isaiah points to Jesus as the “Prince of Peace.” This title reflects His divine mission to bring harmony between God and humanity.**
   2. **Peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of wholeness, reconciliation, and restored relationships.**
   3. **True peace originates from Christ, and only through Him can we experience lasting Peace.**
2. **The Gift of Reconciliation (Romans 5:1-9)**
   1. **Through Jesus’ Sacrifice, we are justified by faith and reconciled to God.**
   2. **This reconciliation removes the barrier of sin and restores our relationship with God, giving us eternal peace.**
   3. **The Birth of Jesus was not just a moment in history; it was the beginning of a mission to restore peace between humanity and God.**
3. **The Call to Share Peace (Matthew 5:9)**
   1. **As followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers: to reflect His Peace in our relationships and to bring healing where there is strife.**
   2. **Peace begins in our hearts, flows into our homes, and extends int our communities and the world.**
   3. **Illustration:** 
      1. **Abraham and Lot’s Herdsman (Genesis 13:5-9)**
      2. **Joseph forgiving his brothers (Genesis 50:15-21)**
      3. **Moses Mediating Conflicts (Exodus 18:13-26)**
      4. **David’s Kindness to Saul’s Family (2 Samuel 9:1-13)**
      5. **Daniel’s Peaceful Approach in Babylon (Daniel 1-6)**
      6. **Paul’s Appeal for Unity in the Church (Ephesians 4:1-3 and Philippians 2:1-4)**
   4. **We honor the Prince of Peace by actively pursuing and promoting peace in our daily lives.**

**Conclusion:**

* **The angels’ proclamation of “Peace on Earth” was not a wish but a declaration of what Jesus came to bring. His birth marked the beginning of a peace that transforms lives and transcends circumstances.**
* **Application.**
  + **Have you experienced the peace of God in your heart through faith in Christ? If not, accept his gift of reconciliation today.**
  + **For those who know His peace, live it out by being a peacemaker in your family, your workplace and community.**