**Life Group Questions - Sunday, 8 December**

**Matthew 5.9 – Advent 2**

**The Gift of Peace**

1. Isaiah 9.6-9 is frequently read during Advent. In a world full of conflict, how can we begin to explain its meaning to those who don’t follow Jesus?
2. What experiences have you had of “the peace of God”?
3. Many people are seeking greater “inner peace.” Where does the Bible direct us in order to find that peace? Can you think of any suggestions in the Bible of how to deepen that peace in our lives?
4. Read Philippians 4.7. If our faith in Christ does not protect us from great trauma or even minor irritations, how does it “guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”?
5. What did Jesus mean (Matthew 5.9) when he said that the peacemakers will be called the children of God?
6. William Barclay, in his commentary on Matthew, said many are *peace-lovers* but fewer are *peace-makers*. What are the dangers of getting involved in making peace. What does Jesus’ own example of making peace show us?
7. Are there any situations in which you feel God is asking you to be a peacemaker?

Try to Incorporate into your prayer time this evening either Philippians 4.6-7 or the blessing in Numbers 6.24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
    and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
    and give you peace.

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