

# FIRST things FIRST...

## *Daily Devotions* April 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Devotions are to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

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### **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: Isaiah 9:6 & John 20:19-31**

In this familiar Isaiah text, we hear the promise of a child to be born. He will be the Savior of us all. He is Jesus, of course! Among the four titles given to Him here is - "Prince of Peace!" Prince of "Shalom." This shalom means that He is the Prince of all good things: wholeness, completeness, safety, prosperity and harmony. His presence ushers in safety, wellness, happiness, friendliness, welfare and health!

From the bloody Old Testament days to the New Testament times of the persecuted Church to our own age of sinful self-absorption...ohhh, how we need this Prince of Peace. What does it mean to you that Jesus is given that title? Prayerfully reflect on that...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to understand Your peaceful reign.

### **Tuesday: April 7<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: Luke 2:13-14 & John 20:19-31**

At Jesus' birth, the angels' message was one glorifying God and proclaiming peace on earth for those upon whom God's favor rests. The in-breaking of Jesus' arrival on earth ushered in this peaceful blessing. Has Jesus' presence ever brought peace to you in a chaotic time? If so, gratefully recall that moment.

**Prayer:** Give me a sense of Your presence, Lord, when all around me is awry.

### **Wednesday: April 8<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: Mark 4:35-39 & John 20:19-31**

This is the familiar story of Jesus bringing peace to the stormy winds and waves around the disciples' boat; "Quiet! Be still!" are His words. The wind and water obeyed!

What resulted was a complete peacefulness described as a "calm." I once saw this anonymous quote: "Sometimes

God calms the storm and sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms His child."

**Prayer:** Lord, Your peace may be within me; Your peace may be around me. Thank You, Lord.

### **Thursday: April 9<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: John 14:27 & John 20:19-31**

Among His farewell words to His disciples, Jesus describes this parting gift to them: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you." And He further describes His gift: "I do not give to you as the world gives." The Greek word here, "eirene," is equivalent to the Hebrew "shalom." Such peace includes personal peace of mind and an absence of conflict.

**Prayer:** Your gifts, to me, O Lord, are far beyond those of earthly value!

### **Friday: April 10<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: Isaiah 26:3 & John 20:19-31**

The Hebrew word for peace found here is the familiar shalom. Here it is a sense of welfare and safety maintained only in one way - through an unwavering trust in God. Whenever life is anything but peaceful, trust that God is our stabilizing strength!

**Prayer:** Teach me complete trust in You, O God.

### **Saturday: April 11<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7 & John 20:19-31**

Here is described a peace ["eirene"] resulting from a constant attitude of "rejoicing" in the Lord. Such continuous praise of God, in every and any circumstance, bears much peaceful fruit and brings the Lord nearer to us. As Psalm 22:3 tells us this about God: "Yet, You are Holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel."

**Prayer:** Help my heart to sing Your constant praises, O Lord!

### **Sunday, April 12, 2026**

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### **Worship at 10:00am**

**Title:** Easter Peace

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**Scripture:** John 20:19-31