

# P R E S E N C E

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

**12.15.24 • Craig Rees & Charles Kirby • From Chaos to Peace**

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1). How does the example of Caesar's decree show the relationship between earthly authority and God's sovereign plan? How does it reflect the tension we often experience when facing situations outside of our control?
  
- 2). What chaotic situations in your life are the most challenging to trust God with? How can you remind yourself that God's plan is at work even in what seems chaotic?
  
- 3). Reflecting on Isaiah 55:8-9, how does understanding that God's ways are higher than ours help you navigate circumstances where you feel out of control?
  
- 4). When have you experienced a situation where external chaos—like a decision made by someone else—disrupted your life? How did you respond to that chaos?
  
- 5). How does the concept of dogma—God's eternal truths—help you trust God's plan even when things don't make sense? What truths are you leaning on in your current circumstances?
  
- 6). How can the idea of God's sovereignty help you in moments where you feel like things are spiraling beyond your control?
  
- 7). In what ways do you relate to Mary and Joseph's journey, where obedience to God required trusting Him even in the absence of full understanding?
  
- 8). How can you adjust your mindset to see peace not as the absence of chaos, but as God's presence in the midst of it?

9). Reflect on the example of the butterfly effect: what small decisions or actions have led to larger impacts in your life that only became clear over time?

10). What does it look like to "fix your heart on God's presence" in moments of uncertainty or hardship?

# Notes

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## Key Scriptures

Luke 2:1-7; Micah 5:2;  
Isaiah 55:8-9; Colossians 1:16;  
Daniel 2:21; Galatians 4:4;  
Acts 13:27; 1 Peter 1:3

## Big Idea

Peace is not the absence of challenges but the presence of God. We move from chaos to peace by fixing our hearts not our circumstances.