

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of December 7, 2025

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, we kicked off a brand new teaching series, *Peace Has A Name*. In this message, Pastor Brian spoke of God's promise of peace through Isaiah 9:2-7, written 700 years before Christ's birth during a time when Judah faced spiritual darkness and political oppression. His message emphasized that true peace doesn't come from fixing our circumstances or staying in the shadows of pretense, but by stepping into the light of Jesus with honesty about our struggles, sins, and wounds. Isaiah prophesied that a child would be born—fully human and fully God—who would carry the weight of the world on His shoulders and be called the Prince of Peace. This peace (shalom) is not merely the absence of conflict, but a comprehensive wholeness that addresses our deepest anxieties, chaos, guilt, and shame through a person, not a principle.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. What did you find compelling or challenging about the message this week? Share your thoughts with the group.
2. **Read Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12**
Isaiah 9:2 describes people "walking in darkness" and "living in the land of deep darkness." What are some specific "darknesses" you're currently experiencing, and how does knowing that "a light has dawned" change your perspective?
3. **Read John 1:4-5; John 8:12**
Pastor Brian challenged us to "step out of the shadows and into the light" by bringing our real struggles to Jesus rather than pretending we have it all together. What is one area of your life where you've been trying to keep "one foot in the dark and one foot in the light," and what would it look like to bring that honestly to Jesus this week?

4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30

Isaiah 9:6 says "the government will be on his shoulders," meaning Jesus carries the weight we cannot. What burdens have you been trying to carry yourself, and how might your life change if you truly trusted they rest on His shoulders?

5. Read Isaiah 9:6; John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7

In his message, Pastor Brian said that peace comes through a person (Jesus), not a plan or principle. How does this truth differ from the ways our culture typically pursues peace, and what does it mean practically to pursue peace through relationship with Christ rather than through circumstances?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey _____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):