



“HOPE IN THE CHAOS” MICAH 5:2-5

The arrival of a baby is powerful—but chaotic

- Parenting illustrates how joy and chaos coexist
- Babies disrupt sleep, finances, relationships, and emotional stability
- Humor highlights a truth: children bring love, but also disorder
- This raises an important question: if babies bring chaos, why does Jesus’ birth promise peace?

Scripture consistently claims Jesus brings peace

- Micah 5:5 calls the coming child “the source of peace”
- Isaiah 9:6 names him “Prince of Peace”
- Luke 2:14 announces peace on earth at Jesus’ birth
- Jesus was fully human, experiencing normal baby chaos
- Yet his arrival introduced a deeper peace the world had not known

Jesus brings hope in the chaos of life

- Modern life feels chaotic: weather disasters, stress, uncertainty
- In the Bible, water often symbolizes chaos, danger, and the unknown
- Ancient people feared the sea as uncontrollable and threatening
- God repeatedly shows his authority over chaotic waters

- Isaiah 43: God promises presence in deep waters
- Psalm 18: God rescues from the depths

From creation to Christ, God speaks peace into chaos

- Genesis 1 depicts a dark, watery chaos before creation
- God’s Spirit hovers over the waters, bringing order by speaking
- Jesus echoes this power by calming the storm with a word (Mark 4)
- His voice still brings calm, light, and order today

Peace does not always mean the storm disappears

- Sometimes Jesus calms the storm
- Other times, he gives peace while we pass through it
- Peace comes from knowing he is present and speaking hope

Christmas declares “God with us”

- Jesus brings peace by being near, not distant
- He walks with us through calm and chaos
- John 16:33 reminds us trouble is real—but Christ has overcome

Mary’s story shows God creating life from impossibility

- Her confusion mirrors creation’s emptiness
- God’s Spirit overshadows her, bringing life through his word
- What seems impossible becomes the birthplace of hope

Invitation and conclusion

- Everyone faces different forms of chaos—loss, confusion, emptiness
- Chaos can be disorder or absence, not just busyness
- The invitation is simple: name your chaos and ask God to speak
- If God speaks, everything can change—because his word never fails

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What kinds of chaos do you enjoy? (If any) What kinds of chaos do you not enjoy?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. The sermon suggests that peace doesn't always mean the absence of chaos, but the presence of Jesus within it. Can you think of a time when things didn't get easier, but you felt steadier? What made the difference?
2. The imagery of "deep waters" is used to describe chaos. For you personally, does chaos feel more like *too much happening* or *something important missing*? How does that shape the kind of peace you long for?
3. The idea that Jesus "speaks" can feel hopeful to some and unrealistic to others. What do you think it might look like—practically—for someone to experience God speaking peace today?
4. The closing invitation was simply to name your chaos and ask God to speak into it. What makes that kind of prayer feel risky—or freeing—for you? What might get in the way of trying it?

Practice of the Week: The Peace Card

- Take a small card or sticky note today
 - Put it somewhere you'll see it this week (dashboard, phone case, fridge, wallet)
- On one side, write ONE word or short phrase that names your chaos
 - Examples: money, sleep, diagnosis, marriage, loneliness, fear, burnout, grief
 - Keep it honest, not poetic
- On the other side, write this sentence:
"Jesus, speak peace into this."
- Once a day this week, do one simple action
 - Hold the card
 - Take one slow breath
 - Read both sides out loud (or silently)
- Then do one concrete step of trust
 - Send the email you've been avoiding
 - Ask for help instead of carrying it alone
 - Go to bed earlier instead of scrolling
 - Forgive one small offense
 - Stop and breathe before reacting
- The goal is not to fix everything
 - It's to let peace shape your *next step*, not your whole future
 - Peace often comes as clarity for the *next right thing*

