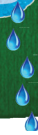


# UNFROZEN



We live in a spiritual world where it is “always winter but never Christmas.” This Christmas, discover how God’s love breaks the freezing power of sadness, conflict, anger and despair.

## Frozen Bleak

Romans 15:7-13 NLT

# HOPE

7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. 8 Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. 9 He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: “For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name.” 10 And in another place it is written, “Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles.” 11 And yet again, “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth.” 12 And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David’s throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.” 13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Weekend of November 29, 2014

## **Frozen Bleak**

### **Romans 15:7-13 NLT**

#### **1. The World's Frozen Treats**

- a. God-is-Dead Blizzard
- b. Make-your-own-God Sundae

#### **2. The Divine Defroster**

- a. God sent his son
- b. God accepts us
- c. God is our hope

#### **Resource Questions:**

Romans 15:7-13

- 1) When people no longer believe in God, where do they place their hope?
- 2) What are some larger social problems that arise when people pick and choose their own personal moral code?
- 3) Christmas is ultimately about God sending his Son into this world. What are some ways you Christmas traditions that celebrate God entering the world through the normal experience of life (birth, learning to walk & talk, experiencing parental love and care, etc.).
- 4) Often we talk about “accepting Jesus Christ” but Romans 15:7 says that Jesus Christ has accepted us. What are some ways you can imitate Christ in accepting others?
- 5) What is the difference between God being the source of our hope rather than some event or action or person?
- 6) In Dante’s Inferno the gates of hell had the inscription: “Abandon all hope - Ye Who Enter Here”. How does this connect Romans 15:7ff.
- 7) Where in your life do you need to experience the warming thaw of God’s hope?



# Frozen Broken

## Luke 4:16-21 NLT

### 1. No Peace

- a. Global Conflict
- b. Family / Relationship Conflict
- c. Inner Conflict

### 2. Prince of Peace

The peace (shalom) of God comes through Jesus.

### 3. Person of Peace

"When God brings peace, he will do it so quietly that you just might miss it. That's the way God's shalom comes: not with a marching band and hoopla and press coverage, but quietly and to unlikely people." - Matt Woodley

### Resource Questions:

- 1 What are the most concerning conflicts you see in the world right now?
- 2 Do you see signs of peace in those regions?
- 3 Christmas is a time when families gather and often this reminds us of various conflicts and brokenness in our relationships with others. What are some ways people cope with relational brokenness at Christmas?
- 4 Why do you think people experience inner conflict? Why are some things you do to help you experience inner peace?
- 5 In Lk 4, Jesus reads a bible passage and says it is fulfilled in him – he is the one who brings God's ultimate peace, restoration, and salvation (i.e., Hebrew= 'shalom') to the world. How does this connect to Luke 2, when the angels announce Jesus birth bringing peace?
- 6 How does the quote from Matt Woodley (see outline) connect to Matthew 5:9?
- 7 Being a person of peace is an important way to follow Jesus. Name three practical and positive things you can do this Christmas to practice peace in your family and relationships
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_