



CHRISTMAS VACATION | PEACE

When I first heard Russ was choosing Christmas Vacation as the movie to talk about peace, I wondered if he had seen the movie? Don't be shocked by that, Russ hasn't seen any of the Harry Potter movies. Anyway, showing the absurdity and chaos of the Griswold family Christmas, which is the opposite of peace, drives the point home even better. What is *true* peace? Where does it come from? How do we get it? Hopefully, we will never look at this movie quite the same next year. We will still laugh, quote the lines, and watch it too many times, but we will also remember what makes a real holy Christmas and put our faith in Jesus and not ourselves.

What's the most "Griswold" Christmas moment you've ever had?

TALK ABOUT IT

Why we relate to Christmas Vacation — The reason this movie holds up is because **we're all the Griswolds**. We want a perfect Christmas or life, and we get a chaotic one.

What part of the movie best symbolizes how you feel this time of year?

"All families are dysfunctional—some just hide it better."
(And Jesus' family had its own challenges too.)

**What's one *normal* family dysfunction that shows up around your table?
(Example: over-talking, arguing, lateness, stress)**

Why do we sometimes feel pressure to pretend our families are perfect?

Read John 14:27.

Even though Jesus only spent about three years with his closest disciples (The Twelve), they may have been more like family than his own. There was plenty of dysfunction, and Jesus often had to deal with it.

APPLY IT

Peace from Jesus is:

- *Given*, not earned
- *Internal*, not circumstantial

- *Present in chaos*, not dependent on the absence of it

Where in your life right now do you feel like the disciples—anxious, uncertain, confused?

What's the biggest difference between the peace the world gives, and the peace Jesus gives?

Most of Clark's meltdowns happen because his *expectations don't match reality*.

How could shifting your expectations bring more peace to your home?

Read Colossians 3:15.

Paul says:

- Let the peace of Christ rule
- And be thankful

Peace is something we *let in*.

How might thankfulness help you handle life's "Clark Griswold moments"?

What is the ONE thing most likely to steal your peace during the holidays?

PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER

Add the words below as you close your prayer for and with your group.

"Jesus, give us Your peace—not the fragile peace we try to manufacture. Help us release our expectations, embrace imperfection, and let Your presence rule our hearts. Amen."