

## Silent Night

? In the past, is “Silent Night” a song you’ve liked singing? Why or why not?

### Silent Night

*music by Franz Gruber*

*lyrics by Joseph Mohr*

*English lyrics by John Freeman Young*

*Composed 1818*

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, oh, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

### History of Silent Night

In 1818, flooding had damaged the church organ in Oberndorf, Austria. Joseph Mohr brought the organist Franz Gruber lyrics he had written, requesting Gruber to write a melody and guitar accompaniment for Christmas Eve Mass. The song spread, and today has been translated into at least 140 languages.

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent\\_Night](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_Night)

? What do you think is the main theme of this song?

## Peace Out of Chaos

### Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

? Why are we told to present our requests to God when we might feel anxious? What are we promised when we approach God in this way?

? What emotions do you feel when you pray?

? Have you ever experienced God's peace in a chaotic situation? What was it like?

## Silence

### Mark 4:35-40 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

? Where do you see silence in this passage?

? How do you think the disciples felt about Jesus bringing silence? How would you feel in that situation?

## Grace

### Luke 2:4-20 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

? Where do you see grace in the Christmas story?

? The shepherds mentioned in the song and in the Scripture passage were the first to see the grace of Jesus’ arrival. What were their reactions?

? What is your reaction to being a recipient of God's grace?

### **Conclusion**

? In times of distress and uncertainty, how do you remember God's grace, his power in silence, and the peace that He brings out of chaos? Which of these three things do you wish for the most right now?

? How can we share these three things with those around us who are struggling with the chaos, noise, and harsh circumstances of the world?

### **For Discussion and Accountability**

? What can you do to seek God's peace out of chaos, silence, and grace in the week to come?

? How would our lives look different if we lived in a way that showed that we truly believed that there could be peace in the midst of chaos?