

a script from
skitguys.com

“This is Advent: Peace”

By
Andrew Kooman

What What: “Hey Siri, define PEACE.” Our phones do a lot for us, but they can’t give us peace. When we power them down and look up at Jesus, it’s incredible how much peace can flood our busy lives.

Part of the *This is Advent* series, readings that will help your church experience the heart of Christmas all over again.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Peace, Reader’s Theatre, Phones, Technology, Humor, Habits, Distraction, Social Media, Busyness, Refreshing

Who Reader 1
Reader 2

When Present Day

Costumes Wear the clothing you’d wear to church on any other Sunday

Props Cell phone
Candle
Lighter

Why Isaiah 26:3

How Both a Reader’s Theater version and a Monologue version are provided. Can be memorized or read off the page directly to the audience. Use black folders and/or music stands if not memorized but be familiar with the text for better audience connection.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Reader's Theater Version

**Performance notes: If you are reading, read the script with emotion, in a way that's true to you. It's important to be yourself. Don't be afraid to take your time. Readers should look at the audience and at their fellow co-Readers.*

Reader 1 holds up a smartphone.

Reader 1: This is a phone.

Reader 2: You may have seen one before.

Reader 1: It's your calendar and your calculator. It's your window into a thousand worlds. A camera and notebook. A map and a search engine. A personal assistant and, well, let's be honest...

Reader 2: ...a companion that you touch and interact with more than any other individual in your life.

Reader 1: It counts your steps and how many calories you've burned.

Reader 2: It beeps to remind you to take your pills and to notify you when the package you ordered arrives at your door.

Reader 1: It times how long you boil your eggs in the morning and serves as your alarm clock to wake you up and drag your too-tired body out of bed.

Reader 2: You cast your morning work out video from it and listen to the morning podcast. It's in your hand and ear and in front of your eyes before your first coffee.

Reader 1: And you've looked at it more than a dozen times before you crack open those hard-boiled eggs and sprinkle them with pepper and salt.

Reader 2: Or ketchup.

Reader 1: Or hot sauce.

Reader 2: Where you go it goes.

Reader 1: You might post funny memes from the bathroom.

Reader 2: Comment between bites of your meal.

Reader 1: Walk through grocery aisles while you loud-talk on speakerphone.

Reader 2: Please, don't do that.

Reader 1: It's got all the apps you'll ever need. To deliver your dinner. And your groceries. Hail a ride. Close the garage door. Set up a blind date. Look up a word.

Reader 2: Book a hotel. Leave a review. Read a book.

Reader 1: Binge watch almost anything.

Reader 2: Subscribe and save.

Reader 1: And we haven't even mentioned TikTok or Instagram, where you can scroll and scroll for days. Where you can let yourself get lost in a labyrinth of funny pranks and hyped-up trends. Gawk at comments from friends you haven't seen since high school.

Reader 2: Let your jaw drop at sensational news stories that, for some reason, even though you know better, you click and click and click again until your blood pressure is high and your blood sugar is low.

Reader 1: Before you know it, it's almost lunchtime and you shake out of your scroll-induced daze only to remember that this whole time you meant to open your Bible App to read the verse of the day.

Reader 2: But your mother has texted you twice now, and she's started to use emoticons and—

Reader 1: This is *my* phone.

Reader 2: And it goes everywhere with me and I go everywhere with it. I stand with it in lines at the bank or while I wait for the nurse to call my name.

Reader 1: I consult it while watching movies, and eating dinner with family and friends.

Reader 2: While I walk the dog.

Reader 1: When I'm in meetings at work.

Reader 2: It's my connection to the world. And yet it disconnects me from the world, from myself, and from God. Not always. But, if I'm honest...

Reader 1: ...a lot.

Reader 2: It does most things for me, but it doesn't give me peace.

Reader 1: This is a phone and you're allowed to turn it off. Put it down. Leave it on its own.

***Reader 1** holds up the phone and reveals a picture of a candle on the screen.*

*After a moment, **Reader 1** powers down the screen and places the phone down.*

Reader 1: There's a difference.

Reader 2: When we stop. When we unplug. When we turn off our pixels and turn to the real light.

Reader 1: Let's take a moment together. To close our eyes. To take in a deep breath. Exhale.

Reader 2: When was the last time you felt true, deep, quiet peace?

Reader 1: God keeps in perfect peace anyone and everyone who fixes their mind on Him.

Reader 2: This Christmas, let us turn our hearts and attention to Jesus, who came as the light into the world so that we may truly know peace.

Reader 1: Tune out the world a little more. Put down the phone. Tune in to God.

Reader 2 *lights the advent candle.*

Reader 1: Today we light the candle of Advent. To remember that Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

Lights fade to end the play.

Monologue Version

**Performance notes: embrace the subtlety and humor of the opening gesture when you show the phone. This is something everyone in the audience may have a connection to. And don't rush powering down the phone at the end, or the lighting of the candle. Not rushing makes it more profound and helps the audience take time to imagine shutting down their own phones so that the candlelight shines brighter.*

The **Actor** holds up a smartphone.

Actor: This is a phone.

You may have seen one before.

It's your calendar and your calculator. It's your window into a thousand worlds.

A camera and notebook. A map and a search engine. A personal assistant and, well, let's be honest, a companion that you touch and interact with more than any other individual in your life.

It counts your steps and how many calories you've burned. It beeps to remind you to take your pills and to notify you when the package you ordered arrives at your door.

It times how long you boil your eggs in the morning and serves as your alarm clock to wake you up and drag your too-tired body out of bed.

You cast your morning work out video from it and listen to the morning podcast. It's in your hand and ear and in front of your eyes before your first coffee. And you've looked at it more than a dozen times before you crack open those hard boiled eggs and sprinkle them with pepper and salt. Or ketchup. Or hot sauce.

Where you go it goes.

You might text at traffic lights. Post funny memes from the bathroom. Comment between bites of your meal. Walk through grocery aisles while you loud-talk on speakerphone. (Please, don't do that).

It's got all the apps you'll ever need. To deliver your dinner. And your groceries. Hail a ride. Close the garage door. Set up a blind date. Look up a word. Book a hotel. Leave a review. Read a book. Binge watch almost anything. Subscribe and save.

And we haven't even mentioned TikTok or Instagram, where you can scroll and scroll for days. Where you can let yourself get lost in a labyrinth of funny pranks and hyped-up trends. Gawk at comments from friends you haven't seen since high school.

Let your jaw drop at sensational news stories that, for some reason, even though you know better, you click and click and click again until your blood pressure is high and your blood sugar is low.

Before you know it, it's almost lunchtime and you shake out of your scroll-induced daze only to remember that this whole time you meant to open your Bible App to read the verse of the day.

But your mother has texted you twice now, and she's started to use emoticons and—

This is *my* phone.

And it goes everywhere with me and I go everywhere with it.

I stand with it in lines at the bank or while I wait for the nurse to call my name.

I consult it while watching movies, and eating dinner with family and friends.

While I walk the dog.

When I'm in meetings at work.

It's my connection to the world.

And yet it disconnects me from the world, from myself and from God.

Not always. But, if I'm honest, a lot.

It does most things for me, but it doesn't give me peace.

This is a phone and you're allowed to turn it off. Put it down. Leave it on its own.

Hold up the phone and reveal a picture of a candle on the screen. After a moment, power down the screen. Place the phone down. Pick up the candle.

There's a difference.

When we stop. When we unplug. When we turn off our pixels and turn to the real light. Let's take a moment together. To close our eyes. To take in a deep breath. Exhale.

When was the last time you felt true, deep, quiet peace?

God keeps in perfect peace anyone and everyone who fixes their mind on Him.

This Christmas, let us turn our hearts and attention to Jesus, who came as the light into the world so that we may truly know peace.

Tune out the world a little more. Put down the phone. Tune in to God.

*The **actor** lights the advent candle.*

Today we light the candle of Advent. To remember that Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

Lights fade to end the play.