

INSIDE OUT

A Deeper Look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

KEY SCRIPTURE | Matthew 5:9

DISCUSSION GUIDE

We continue our teaching series, "Inside Out: A Deeper Look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount", with the seventh beatitude (principles or identity markers for those who live in God's kingdom), "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." What does it mean to be a peacemaker? We may think peace is running away from conflict, or an absence of stress or anxiety. But, being a peacemaker means that we step into conflict to bring peace. In the world of Jesus and in our world today, we are seeing a lot of tension and unrest. An everyday strategy that will allow us, as followers of Christ, to have an impact on the world is by being peacemakers. In order to be peacemakers, we must first have peace with God. Then, as we grow closer to Jesus and follow His example, we will be able to *make* peace in the world. *Living* peace leads to kingdom increase.

QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: Mountain, desert, ocean, or forest – which one do you enjoy visiting most?

1. Read Matthew 5:1–9. What comes to mind when you think of peace? How would you define it?
2. What is the difference between being a peacekeeper and a peacemaker? (See Notes)
3. Pastor Neal said that for us to be peacemakers, we need to (1) remember who our enemy is and (2) remember who people are. Read 1 Peter 5:8 and Genesis 1:27. Who are you tempted to believe is the enemy instead of the devil? How are we to view people? What do we all have in common?
4. Read John 17:22–23, Ephesians 2:13–18, and Ephesians 4:1–4. How do these passages add to our understanding of peace? How can we be agents of peace within the church and the world?
5. Have you ever experienced a conflict that required you to actively build peace? What did you do? What if other people don't reciprocate our efforts in peacemaking?
6. Matthew 5:9 ends by saying "for you will be called children of God." To be called children of God, characteristics of the Father must be present in us. How is God specifically calling you to be a peacemaker today? How can God use you to build bridges between people who are in conflict?

NOTES

Question 3—

The Greek word for “peacemaker” is a compound of two Greek words: Eirene (peace or shalom meaning wholeness or wellbeing) + poieo (to do or to make)—therefore, a peacemaker is someone who brings wholeness or wellbeing. This is something you must actively create. It's active, not passive.

DIGGING DEEPER

Watch this video to learn more about “shalom” and “peace” in the Bible:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace/>