



Life Group Discussion Guide  
 Blessed are the Peacemakers  
 February 12, 2017

**Open in prayer**

- Gallup poll that asked Americans the top five questions they would like to ask God. One of the top five was: "Will there ever be world peace?" What are the top 5 questions you would ask God?
- Have you had a disagreement with anyone recently? What do you think was the cause? How was the issue resolved?
- Psychology Today posed an intriguing question, "If you could push a button and thereby eliminate any person with no repercussions to yourself, would you do it?" 60% of those responding said, "yes." What would you say?

Peace is not automatic. Peace makers are people who endeavor to make peace. Peace must be made. It doesn't happen naturally. It must be actively, intentionally made because it doesn't happen by chance.

**The Big Idea: The children of God are peacemakers. A peacemaker is someone who intentionally works to help people reconcile with God and others. Anyone who does the hard work of peacemaking will be blessed by God.**

- How would you define peace?

Definition: Peace in this verse combines two greek word: *eirene* and *poieo*. Together they mean bring about wholeness, to bring all the essential parts together in wholeness.

**Biblical peace...**

- is not simply the absence of activity. We often use the phrase "peace and quiet" to refer to our need to slow down.
- is more than the absence of hostility. The biblical concept is much deeper than just not having conflict.
- is not just getting away from it all. While we go on vacation to get away from it all, the Bible offers peace right where we are.



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- Have you ever experienced a conflict that required you to actively build peace? What did you do?
- How can the global Church build peace?
- What causes you to lose your personal sense of peace? What do you do to restore your peace?

**How can we be peacemakers?**

1. First, you must be at peace with God.

Peacemaking requires God's power. Real and lasting peace is impossible to create without God's help. You can't make what you don't have. The only way to have inner peace is to make peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 - "Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ."

2. **Help others find peace with God.**

While there is much conflict in our world between one another, the greatest need is to reconcile people to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18 says that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation as if God were making His appeal through us to others.

3. **Be at peace with those around you. Do you need to make things right with someone today? Anyone you need to forgive? Do you need to ask for forgiveness from someone?**

Peacemakers build bridges. Peacemakers actively seek to reconcile. They want harmony.

Ephesians 4:29-31 - "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you



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were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”

Making peace is not always the same thing as obtaining peace. We pray and we take action to make peace with someone. A peacemaker desires peace, and works for peace, and even sacrifices for peace. But obtaining peace doesn't always happen.

- How is peacemaking costly? What does it require from us?
- What do we do when other individuals do not reciprocate our efforts at peacemaking?
- What practical things can we do to encourage peace?

Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Romans 12:18 - “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” This is the goal of the peacemaker: “If possible, as far as it depends on you...” In other words don't let the rift of the relationship be your fault.

**4. Help others who are in conflict.** How can God use you to build bridges between people who are in conflict?

*“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon.”* - Francis of Assisi

In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us commands and promises.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

- Who do you resemble most in your family?
- What habits or traits have you inherited from your family? Which ones do you like? Which ones would you prefer not to have?

“God of Peace” (Romans 16:20) Peacemakers bear a family resemblance and reflect something of the Heavenly Father's character. God himself took the initiative to find a way for us to have peace.



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Colossians 1:20 - "He (Jesus) made peace by the blood of the cross."

**Simple steps toward peace.**

- Take someone to coffee
- Write a card
- Make a meal
- Go see a friend who is in pain
- Listen to someone who needs to be heard
- Always point people to Jesus who is the healer of broken things