



Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Key Scripture

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

Romans 12:14-18 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **Live in harmony with one another.** Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **Repay no one evil for evil**, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, **live peaceably with all.**

Colossians 3:13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and **forgive anyone who offends you.** Remember, **the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled** us to himself and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was **reconciling** the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of **reconciliation**. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Start Talking. Conversation starter for your group.

- Talk about a time where you had a conflict in your life. Is it resolved? If so, how was it resolved?

Start Thinking.

- Do you think it is possible to live in peace today? Why or why not?
- Read **Matthew 5:9**. Why do you think Jesus didn't say blessed are the peace keepers? What's the difference between making peace and keeping peace?
- Read **Romans 12:14-18**. What is Paul's point in this passage? How can we do this?
- Paul ends with "If possible...live peaceably with all." When is it not possible to live at peace with someone?
- Pastor Chris gave three ways to live at peace with someone in conflict. The first was to **tell the truth in love**. Think about when you are in conflict. Is it easy for you to tell the truth? Do you do it in love? Why or why not? (Do you attack the issues or the person?)
- The second way was to **apologize when you have done wrong**. Do you find it easy to apologize? Why or why not? What is the difference between remorse and repentance?
- Finally, peace makers will **forgive continually and completely**. Read **Colossians 3:13**. How do we do this? Why can this be so hard to do?

Start Sharing.

- Read **Colossians 1:20-21** and **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**. What does reconciliation mean?
- How did Christ reconcile us? How can we be reconcilers in this world?

Start Doing.

- Think of a conflict in your life that you're currently involved in or that you experienced in the past. What steps can you take to pursue peace in this situation?