

Small Group Guide: Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Key Takeaways:

1. Peacemakers reflect God's character and are called "sons of God."
2. True peace comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Being a peacemaker involves controlling our speech and prioritizing others.
4. Peacemaking is an active process that requires humility and compassion.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jeff mentioned that peace with God means "we're not at war anymore." How has your understanding of peace with God changed since becoming a Christian?
2. Reflect on James 1:19 - "be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger." How can applying this principle help us become better peacemakers?
3. The sermon emphasized that criticism rarely wins people to Jesus. Can you share an experience where someone's grace and patience impacted you positively?
4. How does the idea of valuing others above ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4) challenge our natural inclinations? What makes this difficult in daily life?
5. Jeff stated, "Peacemakers look for those opportunities to do that [extend grace]." What are some practical ways we can actively seek opportunities to be peacemakers in our families, workplaces, or communities?
6. Discuss the poem by St. Francis of Assisi. Which line resonates with you most and why?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice being "quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger" in your interactions. Journal about how this impacts your relationships.
2. Identify one relationship or situation in your life that needs peace. Pray daily for God's guidance in being a peacemaker in that specific context.
3. Memorize Ephesians 4:29 and use it as a filter for your speech this week. Before speaking, ask yourself if your words will "give grace to those who hear."
4. Look for an opportunity to extend grace to someone who has wronged you or with whom you disagree. Share your experience with the group next time.
5. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be valuing your own interests above others. Choose one area to focus on and make a conscious effort to prioritize others' needs.
6. As a group, brainstorm ways you can collectively be peacemakers in your church or local community. Consider planning a service project or outreach event focused on bringing people together.