

GROUP QUESTIONS: The Art of Peacemaking Wk 3 - w/ Pastor Mindy and the teaching of Rene August

Announcements:

Save the Date for Sunday, May 21 - Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

1. What's your favorite outdoor activity?
2. Take a minute to summarize with your group the main point of the message from Sunday and/or briefly share what stood out to you the most.
3. Pastor Mindy said she hears different iterations of the same question - Can I make a difference? Do I matter enough in the scheme of things? Can I make a difference as one person in this huge complicated situation?
Does this question resonate with you? Do you wonder about these things or something like this? Explain.
4. Rene August taught us that we are image bearers. Specifically as Christians we claim to bear the image of God. She reminded us of the story when Jesus tells his disciples to give taxes to Caesar because they are Caesar's. The coin bore Caesar's image as we bear God's image. Following this thinking, how might we give ourselves to God as God's creation that bears God's image? What would it look like for you to embrace more deeply this idea that you move through the world in the power of God, not to dominate and deliver goodness to others, but rather to create goodness with other image bearers?
5. Rene August cited the work of Lisa Sharon Harper in explaining the idea that shalom, peace, is not innate in an object but rather found in the relationship between things. In the creation narrative it's the birds of

the air and the fish of the sea, night and day, etc that is called good, forcefully good. Discuss together this idea of finding peace through your relationship to other things. Is this a new idea for you? How do you see this playing out in life?

6. Pastor Mindy suggested that we are innately created to be peacemakers. That we work to help conversations go well and things to work out and progress to be made. We like resolution. Do you see this in your life and experience? Explain.

7. What conversation, social justice issue or struggle do you think about the most? What keeps coming up for you? What is a way that you can lean into being a peacemaker in this area? (remember you are probably already peacemaking here. You are probably already discussing with people you disagree with. How might you lean into that even more?)