



## Connect Discussion Guide

07.25.21 Message | Keith Ehresman | Matthew 5:9

### Key Scriptures:

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

- Matthew 5:9

*“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.”*

- Matthew 23:13

*“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

- James 3:17-18

*“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”*

- 1 Timothy 2:3-6

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

- 1 Peter 2:9

### Message Highlights:

- Peacemaking isn’t the path of least resistance, but the path to Christ-like reconciling and Kingdom advancement.
- Jesus tells us that the blessings of eternity will be given to those who have experienced life change.
- Jesus challenges those who will listen to be bridge builders.
- Peacemaking is doing our part to help others make peace with Christ and Kingdom advancement.

### Conversation Starter:

What comes to mind when you hear “peacemaker”? Childhood memories, coworkers, family dynamics? Discuss with your group.

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Look over the entirety of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12); do you see any common threads among the “blessed” statements? Discuss the commonalities you notice with your group.
2. Do you think peace is something you find, something you fight for or both? Explain.
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6; how does this passage encourage you to step into your call to build bridges and be a peacemaker?
4. Have you ever found yourself shying away from the call to peacemaking? Discuss the risk involved in deciding not to engage in the hard work of peacemaking. Refer to Matthew 23:13 as you discuss.
5. Discuss the tension between the desired outcome of peacemaking and the hard work it requires getting there. Have you ever been surprised by how difficult it can be to achieve peace? What encouragement can you draw from today’s sermon to help you persevere when peacemaking becomes taxing?

**Pray:**

*Lord, thank you for showing us what true peacemaking looks like, and for challenging us to be bridge-builders ourselves. We are blessed to be led by your perfect example. We ask that you would clothe us with boldness and courage as we step into our call to be peacemakers. When the process becomes tiring and full of resistance, may we draw strength and peace from you instead of quitting. By your grace, may we find joy in whatever you may call us to this week. In your son’s name we pray, Amen.*