

“HOW TO MAKE PEACE WITH OTHERS”

Clash #5- Kingdoms in Conflict

INTRODUCTION

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9) But what does it mean for us to be peacemakers? Peace is the harmonious relationship between men, nations, or even between man and God. But to be peacemakers we must first debunk some commonly held myths about peace making, and then examine three important keys that will help us become the peacemakers God calls us to be.

Ice Breaker (Optional): Who is most often called on to play the role of peacemaker in your family?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

TWO PEACE MAKER MYTHS

Myth #1 CONDEMNATION leads to transformation

Q1. Read Romans 2:1; Romans 14:4

Few of us enjoy conflict, but we may find ourselves in the middle of it, when we judge someone else to be wrong. Have you ever found yourself condemning such a person in the hope that they will change their ways? What do Romans 2:1 and 14:4 say about our right to pass judgment on another? If we are interested in someone’s spiritual well being, what are some healthy alternatives to confrontation and judgment?

Myth #2 AVOIDING CONFLICT is the same as making peace

Q2. Read Jeremiah 6:14; Proverbs 17:28

On opposite ends of the spectrum are confrontation and avoidance. Since peace is having harmonious relationships, avoiding relationships altogether doesn’t actually make peace. According to Jeremiah 6:14, what is the effect of saying “We have peace.” when peace hasn’t actually been attained? What are the risks of treating a deep wound or conflict as if it were superficial?

THREE KEYS FOR MAKING PEACE

Key #1: understanding

Q3. Read John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:25, 28; Romans 2:21-23

In John chapter 8, the scribes and Pharisees question Jesus concerning a woman caught in adultery. Clearly their interests were not in making peace. (see John 8:6) Jesus looked beyond the

question they posed, and saw what was in their hearts. How do John 8:7, Matthew 23:25, 28 and Romans 2:21-23 reveal the truth underlying those who accused the woman? How does understanding the truth about ourselves and our motives effect how we approach others in times of conflict?

Key #2: compromise

Q4. Read John 8:9; Romans 15:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 12:18

Either because of what Jesus said, or what he wrote on the ground, the people compromised and left without stoning the woman. What is it Romans 15:1 describes that we are obliged to do, and not to do, for those who are weak? According to Paul in Ephesians 4:3, when we walk in our calling, what are we going to maintain? Romans 12:18 tells us to live peaceably so far as it depends on you. What do you find commonly gets in the way of living peaceably, and what can be done to overcome it?

Key #3: forgiveness

Q5. Read Colossians 3:12-13; John 8:10-11

Ultimately, the only way to peace is to be reconciled with God. Jesus didn’t ignore the law by refusing to condemn this woman, but rather He fulfilled it (cf Mat 5:17) by taking her punishment upon himself on the cross. Why is it important for us to accept God’s forgiveness first before we try to forgive others? In addition to freedom from condemnation, what does God’s forgiveness free us to do (John 8:11)?

Wrap-Up

It is a blessing to be a peacemaker, but it is not easy. To be peacemakers we must seek understanding, have willingness to compromise in order to maintain peace, and extend to others the forgiveness that we ourselves have received from God.

Memory Verse

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
Matthew 5:9 ESV*

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge: Do you sense conflict in a relationship with someone? What can you do to bring understanding, compromise and forgiveness to bear on it?

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

Q1 Romans 2:1 ESV - 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

Romans 14:4 ESV - 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Q2

Jeremiah 6:14 ESV - 14 They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.

Proverbs 17:28 ESV - 28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

Q3

Read John 8:2-11 in your Bible

Matthew 23:25, 28 ESV - 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ... 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Romans 2:21-23 ESV - 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

Q4

John 8:9 ESV 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Romans 15:1-2 ESV - 1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV - 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all

humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 12:18 ESV - 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Q5

Colossians 3:12-13 ESV - 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

John 8:10-11 ESV 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

Read Ephesians 2:13-16 in your Bible

Prayers Con't: _____
