

## Week 8: The Peacemakers

*Jesus is not describing eight different persons but is describing eight different qualities of the same person.*

– Darrell Johnson

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

**Theme:** Those who seek to bring God’s peace in our world are the children of God.

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### INTRODUCTION:

**Icebreaker:** Who is someone (other than Jesus) that you consider a peacemaker? Why? What do you admire about them.

**Opening Prayer:** Have a member of the group offer a prayer to start the meeting.

*Example Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach us what it means to be blessed so that we can live our lives fully devoted to you. In Jesus name, Amen.*

### LESSON BEGINS:

#### WEEK 8 BEATITUDE MEDITATION:

**Read Matthew 5:3-11** Have one read the verses, but have the group join in on the bold section.

Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is theirs.

Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be **comforted**.

Blessed are the **humble**, for they will **inherit the earth**.

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they will be **filled**.

Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be **shown mercy**.

Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will **see God**.

Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of **God**.

Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of **righteousness**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is theirs.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

- Share a time when you were reconciled with someone after an argument.
- How did it make you feel to be at peace with that person again?

#### PEACE vs SHALOM:

- What do you think of when a person talks about peace?
- How might that be different than the type of peace God refers to in the Bible?

Quote: Darrell Johnson

The world ‘peace’ used in this beatitude is the Hebrew word ‘shalom’. It means soundness, wellbeing, and wholeness. Shalom is the life that God originally intended it to be, it involved harmony with the earth, other human beings, our inner-self, and with the Living God (ecological, relational, psychological, and spiritual soundness). Shalom encompasses every dimension of life.”

- How is shalom similar and different than our understanding of peace?
- How can joining God in making ‘shalom’ in our world bring blessing and happiness?

## **WEEK 8 SERMON DISCUSSION:**

### **Week 8 Sermon Discussion Questions:**

This week the pastor discussed Matthew 5:10, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

- What did the pastor say it meant to peacemakers?
- What did the pastor say it meant that they will be called sons of God?
- How did the message change or enhance your understanding of this beatitude?
- Did the pastor say anything that was particularly meaningful or encouraging?
- How were you encouraged to apply this beatitude in your daily life or spiritual journey?
- Were there any questions or concerns that you had from the message?

### **Quote: Derwin Gray:**

The idea of peace is gorgeous until someone offends you and you have to be the one who walks across the hot coals of fear, anger, and frustration to rehab and restore the relationship.

- Have you ever found yourself in that type of situation? (Share examples)
- Why is the idea of peacemaking easier said than done?
- Why is peacemaking an important part of living a happy/blessed life?

### **THE GOOD LIFE VIDEO WEEK 8 (with Derwin Gray)**

Videos can be accessed at [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos). This is a hidden page, please do not share it with others. As you watch the video, ask yourself, "How has this week's teaching changed your understanding on what it means to be a peacemaker?"

### **Watch The Good Life video: Peacemakers Part 1**

- How did Jesus demonstrate God's Peace for humanity?
- How does Jesus example leading us to engage in peacemaking?
- How does Derwin define peacemaking? How is that different than conflict avoiding? How does this challenge your definition for being a peacemaker?
- Derwin suggests that "When we love our enemies it is healing for us?" How have you experienced that in your own life?

**VERSE:** Romans 12:21 "Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good."

How can doing good conquer evil? (share examples if possible)

### **Watch The Good Life video: Peacemakers Part 2**

- How does Derwin's story with his father connect with your own story?
- Why does being a peacemaker mean that we might have to engage in conflict? How is it a character trait of following Jesus?
- Derwin says that peacemaking is difficult but worth it? Do you agree?

### **QUOTE: Derwin Gray**

Jesus gives us the power to become peacemakers in a world that is not peaceful. Becoming a peacemaker comes from the overflow of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a righteous and merciful life.

- What did Jesus do to make peace between you and His Father?
- How does the peace Jesus give you empower you to be a peacemaker?
- As children of God, peace is part of who we are in Christ. In what area of life do you need to embrace this part of your identity?
- When you consider your interactions with others, how might you pursue peace in your life?
- What does it look like for you to pursue peace across racial and ethnic boundaries? Why is this necessary?

## **FINAL THOUGHT: Darrell Johnson**

“Peacemakers are poor in spirit. Peacemakers are those who mourn. Peacemakers are also meek. Peacemakers also hunger and thirst for righteousness. Peacemakers are merciful. And peacemakers are pure in heart. Beatitude people are agents of Shalom (peace). They are the ones who make peace in our world.”

## **WEEK 8 WRAP-UP**

### **Read Matthew 5:3-11 Out loud together as a group.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

**Closing Prayer:** How can the group pray for you and others to have a “blessed” (*makarios*) week?

Have a group member close in prayer or provide an opportunity for all members to pray for each other.

### **For additional insight on being poor in spirit, read the following.**

- Chapter 8, ‘Happy are the Peacemakers’ in *The Good Life*, by Derwin Gray
- Chapter 8 ‘Shalom-Makers’ in *The Beatitudes* by Darrell Johnson