

**SCRIPTURE AND  
KEY SERMON NOTES:**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9*

*"We are **NOT** peace-keepers, peace-takers, peace-breakers, or peace-fakers. We **ARE** peacemakers!"*

**PEACEKEEPERS OFTEN AVOID CONFLICT  
TO KEEP THE PEACE.****PEACEMAKERS EMBRACE CONFLICT  
TO MAKE PEACE.****KEY THOUGHT****WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN HOME.  
WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME.**

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21*

**WHAT DO PEACEMAKERS DO?****1) TELL THE TRUTH IN LOVE.**

*Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ... Ephesians 4:15 NLT*

**2) APOLOGIZE WHEN YOU ARE WRONG.**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16*

**3) FORGIVE AND LET GO.**

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9*

*"Peacemaking is at the core of the gospel. It is what Jesus did at the cross – as he washed away our sins, he made peace with us and God."*

**START PRAYING:**

*Thank you for your love and forgiveness. Help us to forgive others like you forgave us! Help us go beyond forgiveness and have a heart that lives in pursuit of peace. May peace be something we bring to the table and something that follows us as we follow you! In Jesus' name, amen!*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Start talking.** (Pick one) Find a conversation starter for your group.

Who is one person you want to have around you in a conflict because of their ability to handle a tough situation well? What about that person makes them so successful in difficult situations?

**Start thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

What is one idea from this message that stood out to you? Why did that idea stick?

How does your perspective on peacemaking change when you view it as a reflection of God's character?

*Follow-up:* How can recognizing that change the way you handle conflict in your relationships?

What's the difference between being a peacemaker and simply avoiding conflict?

*Follow-up:* How does one take a proactive role in peacemaking rather than being passive?

Are you more of a peacekeeper, peacemaker, or peacetaker? Explain.

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

Peacemakers speak truth in love, apologize when wrong, and forgive and let go. Which of these is easiest for you? Which is hardest? Why?

This is the type of message where many people "beat themselves up" by looking at all of the times they've been peace takers or peace keepers. Give yourselves a victory and think about instances when you have handled a conflict well. Which peacemaker traits did you utilize?

Why do you think so many families today have accepted conflict as a regular part of life?

Can you think of a situation where you held onto a grudge? What would it have looked like to be a peacemaker in that scenario?

*Follow-up:* How could the outcome have been different if you had responded differently?

How do you personally balance speaking truth in love with maintaining peace in your relationships?

What does it mean to be a peacemaker but not to be nitpicky about everything everyone does that fails to meet your expectations?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

**Important Note:** You will not become a perfect peacemaker overnight! What is one baby step you can take this week to grow as a peacemaker?