

Study Guide
The Radical Joy of God
Blessed are the peacemakers

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

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:9+10

1. Are you more of an “avoider” or “addressor/aggressor” when it comes to conflict? Describe a time when you were able to diffuse a potential conflict and keep peace. Describe a time when you addressed a conflict and it didn’t go so well.

2. Discuss the following statements:

- a. Peacemaking flows from being “poor in spirit.”
- b. Peacemaking flows from being “pure in heart.”

3. Discuss the difference between a peacekeeper and a peacemaker.

Peacekeeper- *someone who avoids conflict at all costs.*

Peacemaker- *someone who has the ability to disarm conflict by creating livable solutions for both parties.*

How can we improve our skills in humbly resolving conflict? Discuss.

4. According to Matthew 5:10, there is even blessing in being “persecuted for righteousness sake”. Discuss the different levels of persecution in the world. Why do you think Christians are persecuted (see 1 Cor. 1:23 and 2 Cor. 2:15-16).

5. How does the affirmation that yours “*is the kingdom of heaven*” help you to accept injustices and mistreatment? What helps you to be more Christ-like in the way He dealt with injustice?

Application

Take a few minutes to pray for those in your life who have caused you pain. Ask God to give you wisdom to know how to deal with conflict in a Christ-like manner.

Message Slides

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9

>each on mouse click<

1. Peacemaking flows from being "poor in spirit".
2. Peacemaking flows from being "pure in heart".
3. Peacemaking is like being a doormat.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9

3. Peacemaking is NOT like being a doormat.

Peacemaker vs. Peacekeeper

>each on mouse click<

Peacekeeper- someone who avoids conflict at all costs.

Peacemaker- someone who has the ability to disarm conflict by creating livable solutions for both parties.

Show Graphic of Conflict Cycle

Children of God

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

Matt. 5:9

Persecuted for righteousness sake

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:10

Why are believers persecuted for righteousness sake?

"...but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles."

1 Cor. 1:23

“For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.” 2 Cor. 2:15-16

Show image of stray dog

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