

the good life

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Week 6 (Chapter 8)

We live in a world filled with animosity. It seems like everywhere we turn people are arguing and fighting. There is animosity between ethnic groups, political groups, even in our own families. In **Matthew 5:9**, Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Peace sounds great, until we are called upon to pursue peace. Being a true peacemaker can feel awkward or even painful. But when we pursue peace, we can experience happiness. "Becoming a peacemaker requires that we have first been brought into peace with God through the forgiveness that comes by grace through faith in Jesus. It then comes from the overflow of being empowered by God the Holy Spirit to live a righteous and merciful life in response to the gospel that we believed." (page 166) Peacemaking is really about lovemaking. First, God in love made peace with us through Christ. Once we are reconciled to God, we can be reconciled to each other. God sends us into the world to be an ambassador of reconciliation. "As you and I engage in peacemaking and building bridges of ethnic reconciliation in the church and outside the church, we will be called sons and daughters of God. Wouldn't it be nice for us as followers of Jesus to be known for making peace? This is the good life." (page 185)

Create a meaningful conversation. Feel free to adjust the questions as needed.

- ◆ Read **Romans 5:10**. Love learns that God in Christ made peace with us through the cross. How does knowing this truth affect your view of peace? Do you feel at peace with God? If not, share this with your group so they can encourage and pray over you.
- ◆ Read **Romans 12:18**. The message of this verse can be a challenging verse to live by. What are your thoughts when reading this verse? Are you overwhelmed? Why is it possible to achieve what this verse calls us to do?
- ◆ As a son or daughter of God, peace is now in your DNA. How can you embrace this part of your identity? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you seek to be an agent of peace in your family and in your community.
- ◆ Love laments how we have failed to love each other as siblings. Read **Colossians 3:11-16**. Recall a time when you may have failed to show love or pursue peace. How would you handle that situation now, knowing what you know about your identity in Christ? Allow **Philippians 2:3-8** to guide your thoughts. This exercise is not meant to shame you. Rather, allow God to move you to repentance and transformation.
- ◆ Love leverages our lives as ambassadors of reconciliation (peace). Read **2 Corinthians 5:18**. Is there anything that scares you or makes you feel uncomfortable about being an ambassador of reconciliation? What hurdles do you see? How can you group walk with you on this journey?

Soul-tattoo: Read the peacemaking prayer on page 186 (or scroll to next page).

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Holy Spirit,

Blow up the doors of my heart so the peacemaking grace of the Lord Jesus can come in.
Open my mind to the reality that it was His grace that eternally changed my status from foe to
friend, from enemy to family.

Father,

In Christ, Your beloved Son, I am now a child of Yours. I now have Your DNA swirling and
pulsating in me and through You.

Jesus, our King,

Release Your peacemaking love through me.

May I cast seeds of peace wherever I go so they can take root, mature, and produce fruit to
feed the world.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, amen.