



RECAP:

Throughout the history of the world there have been many ideas and theories on how one should live. Epicurus (341-270 BC) taught that humans are motivated by pursuing happiness and avoiding pain. Jesus, however, taught that becoming a peacemaker is what truly leads to the happy and good life.

As peacemakers we bring: sacrificial love, obedience, new creation, and the Spirit's power. As you read the scripture and discuss the questions below, take time to reflect on your "sonship." Sonship simply means that you have been adopted into God's family. You can start by reading Ephesians 1:5-10 aloud:

⁵ He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace that He lavished on us in the Beloved One. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ that He richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He purposed in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to you to be a part of God's family? What are the benefits? What are the expectations?
- Read Ephesians 2:14-16. What two groups did Jesus bring together? What is the significance of the peace Jesus brought between Jews and Gentiles?
- Read Micah 6:8. What is God calling us to do? What are ways you can be obedient to this calling in your personal life?
- Read Romans 12:19-21. This is a radical call for Christians. To love one's enemies is no easy feat. Why does God call us to this? Is there anyone in your life you need to make peace with?
- Read Romans 8:6. What's the difference in having the mindset of the flesh versus the mindset of the Spirit? How can you commit to the mindset of the Spirit?