

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Icebreaker:

- What is something important a grandparent or older mentor taught you?

Start thinking:

- Why do you think there is so much division in our world today?
- How would you define true peace? (Think a little deeper.)
- What does it mean when Jesus said we would be called “children of God” in Matthew 5:9?

Start sharing. Go deeper with these questions to create openness. (Discuss all of them time allows)

- Why is it so important to view ALL people as created in the image of God (Imago Dei)? Even “evil” people.
- What are some ways we be peacemakers?
- What areas of your life is the Holy Spirit revealing that you need some transformation in spiritually regarding being a peacemaker?
- Pastor Checkerz said that “Peacemakers actively pursue reconciliation.” Who do you need to reconcile with? Repent to?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

- Jesus, My heart’s desire is to see You fully one day. I ask that you search me and reveal where I have not been a peacemaker. I ask You to forgive me and to strengthen me to actively pursue reconciliation as a peacemaker. Let my attitude, actions, speech, and social media posts bring honor and glory to You. -Amen

Start digging. Read Scripture about being pure in heart and seeing God.

Romans 12:18
James 3:17-18

Ephesians 4:1-6
Hebrews 12:14

THE BLESSED LIFE #7: BEING A PEACEMAKER

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Colossians 3:19-20)

THE BIG IDEA: We will be able to be identified as God’s children by the way we live as “peacemakers” in our world.

PEACEMAKERS SEE _____ AS GOD’S CREATION

- *“So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.” (Genesis 1:27)*
- **Because every person ever born was/is created in the image of God, every person is worth redemption in Christ.**
- *“With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God’s likeness. 10 Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. 11 Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.” (James 3:9-12)*
- **People who refuse to acknowledge the value and dignity of every human being cannot claim to be children of God.**

PEACEMAKERS DESIRE THE _____ GOOD FOR OTHERS

- **Acknowledging our own sinfulness helps us have a proper perspective regarding how we see others.**

- “So, then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called ‘the uncircumcised’ by those called ‘the circumcised,’ which is done in the flesh by human hands. 12 At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh.” (Ephesians 2:11-14)
- **A true Christian acknowledges that Jesus died for all mankind who would call on His name, regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, socio-economic status, or political affiliation.**

PEACEMAKERS _____ PURSUE RECONCILIATION

- **“You make peace by identifying the truth, addressing the sin, and construction a bridge between those who are at odds with one another.” – Tony Evans**
- **Our prayers for peace must be accompanied by our active effort to reconcile people to God, and one**
- *“You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be[s] children of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45)*
- *“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone’s eyes. 18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:17-18)*
- **Jesus didn’t come to take sides, He came to take over.**

PEACEMAKERS ARE IDENTIFIED BY _____ TO THE LORD’S TEACHINGS

- *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)*
- **A person who has been born again in Christ will display a changed life that honors Jesus.**

- **It is our transformed life that sets us apart from those who are simply religious, and makes us “recognizable” as God’s true children.**
- *“For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 Indeed, it is necessary that there be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you.” (1 Corinthians 11:18-19)*
- **Being a Peacemaker is the high calling of every Christian and a key to living the Blessed Life.**

****Connect Group Discussion On Back Page**

**Connect Groups are small groups of people who gather together once a week in coffee shops, homes, the park, on the church campus, etc. to share life together, pray for one another, and discuss the sermon from Sunday to go deeper in understanding. (Most of our Connect Groups are currently meeting via Zoom virtual meetings.)

To get connected to a group that fits your schedule, stop by the Information Desk in the foyer or contact us at 225-272-3740 or by email at maguillard@renewchurchonline.org.