

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: MARCH 14-20, 2026

SERIES INFO

Upside Down

Most of us already know what the good life looks like in our culture... success, comfort, confidence, control. We don't have to be taught what to chase; we're already running. In the opening lines of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus disrupts all of it. He blesses weakness, grief, humility, mercy, purity, peacemaking, and faithfulness under pressure... qualities we usually avoid, ignore, or see as setbacks. This series slows us down long enough to notice the gap between what we chase and what Jesus calls blessed. Not to pressure people. Not to shame people. But to help people see clearly. Each week, we'll unpack one of Jesus' statements and let it confront our assumptions about the good life... one attitude at a time.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

- What is the pettiest conflict in which you ever engaged? Think of the smallest, funniest, and most meaningless argument you have ever had with someone.

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest "takeaways" you had from the message this week on "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called children of God?"

DISCUSSION

1. God is the Source of Our Peace

Scripture: Matthew 5:9; Isaiah 9:6-7; Colossians 1:19-20

Peace in our culture usually means the absence of conflict. Though, the Hebrew word for peace is shalom. It means: "wholeness," "restoration," "harmony," "flourishing," and "life as God intended it." Shalom means that everything is put back the way God designed it to be. When God created the world as recorded in the book of Genesis, everything was in shalom. When sin entered our world, peace shattered. Relationships fractured. Humanity became alienated from God, divided, and conflicted within and with each other. From that point forward, the biblical story is about God restoring shalom to His creation. When Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," He wasn't offering up a general life tip or an ethical teaching about getting along with people. He was describing what "kingdom people" look like when God's reign begins to take hold in their hearts. Peace is much bigger than we realize. It begins with God and His gospel. The gospel is all about the restoration of relationship with God and one another. Peace in this context is not just experiencing emotional "calm." It is the state of reconciliation for the whole of creation.

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

- 1) How does the biblical idea of shalom expand our understanding of peace?

- 2) In the Isaiah passage, the prophet calls Messiah the “Prince of Peace.” What do you think Isaiah meant by connecting peace with the Messiah’s government, or reign? (Think kingdom of God)

- 3) Why do you think the cross of Christ is the ultimate act of peacemaking?

2. Jesus-the True Peacemaker

Scripture: Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

It is interesting to note that when Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers ...,” He is describing a life that reflects the heart of His own mission ... to bring peace to a broken world. Jesus Himself is the ultimate peacemaker. Our deepest brokenness and chaos of life stems from the breach of relationship between us and God. Outside a relationship with God, we can know no peace. But Jesus accomplishes peace for us through His death and resurrection. Hostility and alienation are removed, and we can have reconciliation with God.

- 1) What kind of dividing walls still exist in our world today that would keep us from having peace? What might the ministry of reconciliation look like in everyday life?

- 2) Why is sacrificial love so powerful in overcoming conflict?

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3. Do You See the Family Resemblance?

Scripture: John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1-3

In the ancient world, when a person was called a “child” or a “son” of someone, it meant that they often shared the same kind of character. They resembled the ones whose behavior they were reflecting. When Jesus said that those who work for peace will be called children of God, He means that we will resemble our Father and His character, because He is the great peacemaker. When we are reconciled to God, we begin to live like our Father, reflecting His heart. As children of God, we are living out and embodying what it means to belong to God’s Kingdom.

1) What is the difference between peacemaking and simply avoiding conflict?

2) If the church truly lived as a community of peacemakers, how might that change the way people outside the church view Christianity?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where do you see a lack of peace in your own life or relationships?
- Where is Jesus inviting you to participate in His peacemaking work this week?
- In what way do you see God’s character being reflected in you to others right now?

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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the peace You have given us through Jesus Christ. Help us to live as true children of God by reflecting Your heart in the way we treat others. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may bring reconciliation where there is division and carry Your peace into our homes, our relationships, and our world. May our lives point others to the grace and peace found in Jesus. In his name we pray, Amen.