



KICK OFF

Who should be eligible to get the Nobel Peace Prize?



KEY VERSE

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.”



BIG IDEA

Christians are at peace with God and therefore strive to be peacemakers. They are ‘sons of God’ who reflect the Father’s peacemaking character.



INVESTIGATE

PEACE AND THE PEACEMAKER

Read Matthew 5:9

1. What is the flow-on connection between ‘purity of heart’ and ‘peacemaking’? Could a person filled with envy, jealousy ever be a peacemaker?
2. What will peace be like when it comes?
Isaiah 52: 7—10
3. What will God do for wayward Israel?
Ezekiel 37:24—28
4. How do you reconcile Matthew 10:34—36, 37 with
I Corinthians 7:15, I Peter 3:11, Hebrews 12:14, Romans 12:18?
5. What are the characteristics of the ‘peace’ God promises his people?
6. How is peacemaking God’s work?
Colossians 1: 20

Ephesians 2: 14—17
7. What then is peace in the Bible?
8. Why is the peacemaker’s reward to be called ‘the sons of God’?



DIG DEEPER

D.A. Carson writes “This beatitude does not hold out a blessing to the peaceful, nor to those who yearn for peace, but to the peacemakers. Within the total Biblical framework, the greatest peacemaker is Jesus Christ—the Prince of Peace. He makes peace between God and men and women by removing sin, the ground of alienation; He makes peace between man and man by removing sin and by bringing men and women into a right relationship with God (see Ephesians 2:11–22). Jesus gave the traditional Jewish greeting new depths of meaning, when after his death and resurrection, he greeted his disciples with the words, ‘peace be with you (Luke 24:36; John 20:19). Thus the good news of Jesus is the greatest peacemaking message, and the Christian who shares his faith is, fundamentally a harbinger of peace, a peacemaker. Small wonder Paul uses the imagery of Isaiah, who pictures messengers racing along the trails of the Judean hill country: ‘How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15). Yet there is nothing in the context to argue that in Matthew 5:9 Jesus is restricting himself to gospel peacemaking. Rather, the disciple of Jesus Christ must be a peacemaker (cont’d over page)

PEOPLE OF PEACE

9. How do we live at peace with everyone?

Romans 12:18-19

Romans 12: 20—21

James 1:19, 3:18, 4:11-12

Proverbs 15:1

THINK AND APPLY

10. How could you help your friends/family make peace with God?

11. Can you think of ways in which you could be a peacemaker at
Home
Church
Friends
School/work

12. What particular situations provoke an aggressive response in you?
How could you work against this?

Praise God for the challenges raised by God's Word through this study.

Praying for others in your group:

How does this passage apply to our daily life?

in the broadest sense of the term. The Christian's role as peacemaker extends not only to spreading the gospel, but to lessening tensions, seeking solutions, ensuring that communication is understood. Perhaps his most difficult assignments will take place on those occasion when he is personally involved. He will not confuse issues with his own ego-image.

The peacemaker's reward, then, is that he will be called a son of God. He reflects his heavenly Father's wonderful peacemaking character. The conduct of being a peacemaker ought to be considered normal among disciples of Jesus Christ, for Jesus made it normative.

PRAISE GOD that by His death on the cross, Jesus has laid down the basis upon which we can relate to God and each other in true peace—restored relationships.

CONFESS that we have not listened as often or as long as we should.

ASK GOD for wisdom in knowing how to be a peacemaker.

PRAY ALSO for the church to reflect this sense of peacemaking for we are 'sons of God.'

For next week's study read Matthew 5:10-12

READ AHEAD