

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Season 7 Episode 14 Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone extended peace to you when you didn't deserve it. How did that impact you?

Key Scripture

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

Supporting Passages:

- Matthew 26:47-56 (Peter in the Garden)
- John 18:10-11 (Cutting off Malchus's ear)
- Romans 12:18
- Proverbs 6:16-19

Key Takeaways

1. Peacemakers vs. Peaceful People

Jesus doesn't say "blessed are the peaceful" but "blessed are the peacemakers." This is an active, intentional role—not passive serenity.

Key Point: A peacemaker actively seeks to extinguish fires of strife and restore harmony, particularly within the body of Christ.

2. The Zealot Mindset

The Zealots believed the kingdom would come through violence, war, and force. Jesus directly confronts this thinking by calling His followers to be peacemakers instead of warriors.

Key Point: We cannot advance God's kingdom through violence, aggression, or "winning" arguments. The kingdom comes through peace.

3. Peter's Sword and the Healing of Malchus

When Peter cut off Malchus's ear, he was attempting to force God's hand and disqualify Malchus from temple service. Jesus healed the ear, protecting both Malchus and Peter.

Key Point: Jesus removes evidence of our past wrongs and restores what we've damaged. He models the ultimate peacemaking.

4. The Cost of Peacemaking

Being a peacemaker requires humility, being unoffendable, and extending grace to those who don't deserve it—just as Christ did for us.

Key Point: We must put down our "swords" (our need to be right, our pride, our desire for revenge) to truly make peace.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. What surprised you most about the historical context of the Zealots and the five political movements during Jesus's time?
2. Why do you think Jesus specifically chose Simon the Zealot to be one of His disciples?
3. How does understanding the significance of Malchus being the high priest's servant change your perspective on Peter's actions in the garden?

Personal Reflection

4. In what areas of your life are you more like a "Zealot" (trying to force outcomes through your own strength) rather than a peacemaker?
5. The podcast mentioned that peacemakers must be "unoffendable." On a scale of 1-10, how easily are you offended? What triggers you most?
6. Pastor Robby said he's learned to extend olive branches to people who don't deserve it. Who in your life comes to mind when you hear that statement?

Application & Action

7. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." What does "as far as it depends on you" mean practically?
8. The podcast mentioned that sometimes we need to "avoid" people who constantly stir up strife (Romans 16:17). How do we balance being peacemakers with having healthy boundaries?
9. What's the difference between making peace and being a "people pleaser" or avoiding conflict altogether?

Going Deeper

10. How does Jesus's healing of Malchus demonstrate both justice and mercy? What can we learn from this about true peacemaking?
11. Proverbs 6:19 says God hates "one who stirs up trouble among brothers." Why do you think this made the list of things God detests?
12. How can we be peacemakers in our current cultural climate, where everyone seems offended and divided?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: The Olive Branch: Identify one person you need to extend peace to (even if they don't deserve it). Reach out with a text, call, or coffee invitation. Remember: you're not responsible for the results, only for extending the branch.

Option 2: The Fire Extinguisher: When you notice conflict brewing (at work, in your family, online), intentionally step in to de-escalate rather than add fuel. Practice asking, "How can I bring peace to this situation?"

Option 3: The Self-Examination: Spend 15 minutes in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've been stirring up strife rather than making peace. Confess it and ask for God's help to change.

Option 4: The Apology: If God brings someone to mind that you've wronged, humble yourself and apologize, even if you think they were partly at fault too.

Reflection Exercise

Personal Inventory: Take a few moments of silence and honestly answer these questions:

- Am I more known for stirring up conflict or bringing peace?
- Do I hold grudges or extend grace?
- Am I quick to forgive or slow to let go?
- Do I seek to win arguments or restore relationships?
- Am I unoffendable or easily triggered?

Group Share: (Optional) Share one insight from your personal reflection.

Memory Verse

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Humility to put down our "swords" and extend peace
- Wisdom to know when to pursue reconciliation and when to maintain boundaries
- The Holy Spirit to reveal relationships that need healing
- Strength to forgive those who have hurt us
- Grace to be more like Jesus, the ultimate peacemaker

Additional Resources

For Further Study:

- Read the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- Study Philippians 2:1-11 on Christ's humility
- Research the historical context of the Zealot movement
- Read "The Peacemaker" by Ken Sande

Next Week's Preview: Continue in the Beatitudes with the next teaching from the podcast on the Mount.