



- Hard things are usually **neglected** things.

With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

- Hard things become **good** things when they cause us to **trust** God.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

God blesses those who are peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

The people around us need to experience God's **peace** within us.

- Peace is a **heart** issue.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. James 4:1 (MSG)

- Why we enter conflict will reflect **how we act** in conflict.

**Definition:** Peacemaker - Someone who enters conflict to reconcile people to God and to one another.

- The primary purpose of a peacemaker in conflict is **reconciliation**.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

- When we focus on resolutions, we tend to try to fix the **person** rather than the problem.

God has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. God was in Christ restoring his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ's representatives... We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GWT)

We first seek to reconcile people to **God**.

We **promote** reconciliation with others.

You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27 (NLT)

**To be peacemakers:**

- We need peace **with God** to have the peace of God.

...since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Romans 5:1 (NLT)

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 (NLT)

When we're at peace with God within, what happens around us doesn't **upset** us.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts....Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

- Peace with God changes how we **address** conflict.

"Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness." James 3:18 (NLT)

**The way we plant peace is:**

- We make peace our responsibility and **priority**.

"If you're standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go at once and first be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God." Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)

- Seek to **understand** before seeking to be understood.

...be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. James 1:19 (NLT)

- I deal with my **fear**.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear... 1 John 4:18 (NIV)

- I speak the **truth** tactfully with **love**.

...speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ... Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

**ACTION STEPS:**

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

- Find **common ground**.

- Look **deeper** than the difficulty.

- **Bless** the difficult.

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. Colossians 1:19-20



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Do you tend to avoid doing the "Hard Things"? What is one "Hard Thing" you need to address?
- Do you find it easier to be a peace-keeper than a peace-maker? What's the difference?
- In your own words, why does the world need God's peace?
- Why is peace a heart issue?
- Talk about the definition of peacemaker and why is that needed in today's culture?
- Why is the primary purpose of a peacemaker reconciliation?
- Why do we need to have peace with God to have the peace of God?
- Do you agree that when we have peace with God within, what happens around us doesn't upset is? Explain.
- How do we make peace our personal responsibility and priority?
- How do we seek to understand before being understood?
- How does our fear interfere with making peace?
- What does it mean to speak the truth tactfully with love?
- Why does peace make us children of God?

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Coming Up:



**Thanksgiving Boxes**

Help provide a Thanksgiving Meal to people in need:  
**Sign up in the Courtyard**  
food items needed,  
box assembly & distribution

List available at [fresnoquest.com/resource page](https://fresnoquest.com/resource-page)  
Items due Sunday November 20th  
see Jenn Bohner if you have questions

The graphic features a cartoon turkey holding a box labeled 'Thanksgiving Box' and a small photo of Jenn Bohner. The background is decorated with autumn leaves.



Today's Talk..



**Encha-salada-jale-rito**

Sign up in the Courtyard

Sunday  
December  
**4**  
4p / the Great Room

White Elephant Gift Exchange  
\$5 limit please

The graphic is festive, with a background of snow and Christmas ornaments. It features a cartoon character with a large mustache and a sombrero, and a calendar icon showing Sunday, December 4th. A white elephant is also depicted.



Making peace with difficult people

Sunday, November 13th, 2022

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