



"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. Matthew 5:13

- We can't change the culture when we've _____ to it. 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 _____ within us.

We need to understand the problem:

- Peace is a _____ 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)

What peacemaking is not:

- Not _____ conflict.
- Not _____ others.
- Not winning an _____.
- Why we enter conflict will reflect _____ we _____ in conflict.

Definition: Peacemaker - Someone who enters conflict with the purpose of reconciliation.

- The primary purpose of a peacemaker in conflict is to _____.
If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18 (NIV)

- When our goal is reconciliation, we value the _____ over 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 (GW)

We first seek to reconcile people to _____.

We _____ 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 _____ to have the peace of God.

1 ...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)

27 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)

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

- Our peace with God changes how we _____ conflict.

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

How we plant seeds of peace:

- We make peace our personal _____ and _____.

"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 _____, 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 _____.

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

- I speak the _____ tactfully with _____.

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. Proverbs 15:1 (NLT)

...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)

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)

Action Steps:

Find _____ ground.

Look deeper than the _____.

Bless the _____.

VISION:

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

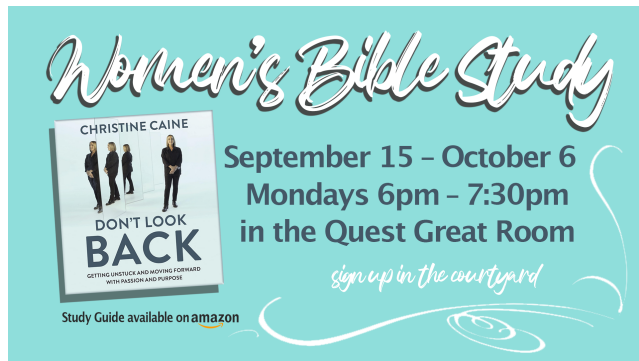
Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Why is this beatitude difficult for our natural man to accept?
- In your own words, why does the world need God's peace from us?
- Why is peace a heart issue?
- Talk about the definition of a peacemaker and why it is needed in today's culture.
- Why is the primary purpose of a peacemaker to restore relationships?
- 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 us? 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?
- How do we use the truth as a club to beat people with?

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