

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 13, 2022

Theme: The Beatitudes Topic: Blessed are the Peacemakers

Main Texts: Ephesians 2:14-16; Romans 12:16-18

Key verse: Matthew 5:9 – ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God’
(NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: This seventh Beatitude must have come as another shocker to Jesus’ audience. ‘*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*’ (Matthew 5:9). This Beatitude comes immediately after ‘*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God*’ (Matthew 5:8), for it is the absence of all baseness (evil, meanness, iniquity, wickedness) and impurity that gives the power to make peace. The word peacemaker is a combination of two words, peace and make, which implies doing or practicing. So, to be called son of God, one needs to be a peacemaker, reconciling man to God and man to man. One of the reasons why this Beatitude was another bombshell to Jesus’ audience was because of the feud between the Jews and Gentiles (as well as the Samaritans), with the Jews constantly claiming ownership of God. Being called sons of God was not popular in those days as well, but Jesus consistently raised the issue of His followers being called sons of God (Matthew 6:45. Luke 6:35).

1. **Read Isaiah 9:6; Luke 6:35; Acts 1:6; 10:28; Ephesians 2:11-12 (a) Why do you think it was important for Jesus to release this Beatitude? (b) Let participants discuss how these passages relate to this seventh Beatitude (c) How do you think, His audience responded to this Beatitude? Why?**

To be a peacemaker is different from being peaceable. Peacemaking demands that we step into conflict and build a bridge. Peacemaking is active. In the Bible days, peacemakers would step in between two warring parties to bring about reconciliation. Abraham stepped into the conflict between his herdsmen and Lot’s and resolved it (Genesis 13:7-11). Jesus Himself stepped into conflict between man and God, and man and man; and built a bridge by His blood to reconcile man to God as well as man to man – *For He is {Himself} our peace (our bond of unity and harmony). He has made us both (Jew and Gentile) one (body), and has broken down (destroyed, abolished) the hostile dividing wall between us,and (He designed) to reconcile to God both (Jew and Gentile, united) in a single body by means of His cross, thereby killing the mutual enmity and bringing the feud to an end* (Ephesians 2: 14-16 AMP). Jesus left us an example *and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation (that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him)* (2 Corinthians 5:18).

2. **(a) Read Ephesians 2:14-16. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to break down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles? What is the implication of that reconciliation or peacemaking? (b) Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. God committed the ministry of reconciliation to all who have been reconciled to Him. What does this assignment reveal about God’s mind? (c) What do you think should be the character traits of a peacemaker?**

While pursuing peace with all people is admonished (Hebrews 12:14), attempts at making peace might fail. People may not be ready to get reconciled to God or to man. Moses stepped into conflict, but the attempt failed (Exodus 2:13-14). Apostle Paul’s caveat was “*if it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men*” (Romans 12:18). So, the peacemaker initiates reconciliation when others have wronged him (tough one) and is quick to repent and ask for forgiveness when he has wronged others. The peacemaker continues to extend the message of reconciliation with God in and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2). It is by being a peacemaker that we show who we truly are and belong. For our God is the God of peace (Romans 16:20); Jesus is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) and the Lord of peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16), and we are called to peace (Colossians 3:15).

3. **(a) Let participants share stories of how and when they have successfully functioned as peacemakers. What attributes did they display? (b) What do you do if someone insists on living in strife? (c) Think through and consider if there is someone you need to make peace with. From the lessons learnt from this study, what would you do? (i) If you were wronged? (ii) if you wronged someone.**

Prayer: *Our dear heavenly Father, we thank You for today’s lesson. We pray that we will appropriate boldness and courage to be peacemakers everywhere we find ourselves, Amen*