



Keeping the Peace

Facilitator Note: *We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.*

PRESS START

Many of our favorite superheroes are peacekeepers. They hold themselves to a standard higher than those who don't have superpowers. By doing so, they help all by being humble, pure in heart, and over everything, keeping the peace.

Ask: When was the last time you had to “keep the peace” either between friends, family, or another group?

EQUIP

Just like our favorite superheroes, Jesus has called us to be humble, meek, and keep the peace between all. In His most famous sermon, The Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*), Jesus took the law and flipped it on his head. The Sermon on the Mount is the classic statement of the ethics of the kingdom of God. The sermon is directed to the disciples and through them to the whole church today.

The sermon addresses both inward motives and outward conduct (5:21, 22, 27, 28), calling the adopted sons of God (5:9) to reflect the character of their heavenly Father (5:16, 48; 6:1, 6, 9, 32, 33). These legitimate demands set the bar so high (5:48) no one except Jesus, the king Himself, fulfills them flawlessly. We are therefore driven to the grace and mercy of God both for forgiveness in our failures (6:12) and for the Spirit's strength when our faith and faithfulness are tried (6:13).

Ask: Why do you think we are called to humbleness as followers of Christ?

LEVEL UP

Read: Matthew 5:1-12 (CBS)

When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “You are blessed when they

insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MOD

Ask: Can you think of any other verses in Scripture that relate to *Matthew 5:5?* (*James 1:19-21*)

Ask: How do these two verses relate to each other?

Ask: Who do you think of when you think of someone who is meek?

Ask: Why does Jesus tell us to be peacemakers? What are we called if we become peacemakers, according to the text?

PRAY

Pray: Father, thank you for Jesus and all he did for us. Thank you for the cross, and for calling us your sons and daughters. We are so grateful to you. Help us begin or continue showing your love to others in the way we talk, act, and live out our callings here on earth as citizens of Heaven in the week ahead.

NEXT LEVEL

Read: *Matthew 5:13-16* (CSB)

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden."¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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