

## Group/Individual Study

Series: "Bless this Home" - Blessed are the peacemakers

Passages: Matt 5:9, Romans 12:17-18, 21, Eph 5:21, Eph 4:18, James 5:16

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 5/28

1. Read Matthew 5:9. What do you think Jesus meant by "peacemakers?" This verse says that peacemakers "will be called children of God." How do you think being a peacemaker causes us to look more like God's children? In what sense(s) is God a peacemaker?
2. Read Romans 12:17-18, 21. In practical terms why is it easy during conflict to "return evil for evil?" These verses seem to exhort us not to merely react to the other person's bad behavior or harsh words (or our own bad moods!), but to filter our responses through God and His leading. How does this lift conversation to a different level? Can you tell about a time you "got this right?" In what relationship(s) do you find this most difficult to do?
3. Read Ephesians 5:21. How do you think obeying this verse helps us to live as peacemakers? How is being a peacemaker different from being a conflict avoider? From being a doormat? Can being a peacemaker ever lead a person to have hard conversations they might otherwise avoid?
4. Read Ephesians 4:16. What do you think "speaking the truth in love" looks like? Have you seen this lived out well? Have you ever seen this exhortation misused? How so?
5. Read James 5:16. How would you describe a godly apology? What things can we add to our "apology" that ruin it? Do you find apologizing easy or hard? Why?
6. What do you think you can do to bring more peace to your home or closest relationships? What concrete, practical step could you take this week to live that out? Pray to God for the follow-through to be a "peacemaker" in this way.