

# STUDY NOTES

SUMMER 2019

at New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" on 7/7/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

## SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:9

## THE NEED FOR PEACE

The Bible opens with peace in the Garden and it ends with peace in eternity, but in between there seems to be anything but peace. The world we live in is set in the same world that we see set in the New Testament. The idea of achieving peace is very difficult to imagine. We have fighting, hatred, broken relationships, looting during natural disasters, and racial prejudice. We need peace. Jesus calls us to peace.

**Matthew 5:9 — “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”**

• How would you describe the peacefulness of the world around you?

• How would you describe the peacefulness of the Church as a whole?

In a world full of conflict/war/fighting, God's people are meant to be peacemakers. This is a core value in the Kingdom of God, and the beatitudes remind us that it is blessed—or a better situation to be in—to be a peacemaker.

• Where in your life do you feel at peace? Describe what makes it peaceful.

## BEING A PEACEMAKER

Jesus's idea of peace means more than living in serenity, calmness or safety. Peace occurs when things operate as they should. True peace requires righteousness. We must deal with the root sins that lie beneath the conflict for us to achieve Godly peace. We cannot ignore sin and hope for peace. Being a peacemaker means we don't run away from conflicts, but rather face them head-on until they're resolved.

**True peace requires repentance for wrongs done.**

**True peace requires forgiveness to be extended to those who have wronged us.**

- Give some examples of how people try to ignore sin, yet hope for peace? Give some examples from your own life.
- Why do you think both repentance and forgiveness are needed for true peace?

Jesus is talking about those who take an active and intentional role in bringing about peace. He didn't say, "Blessed are the peaceful." Peacemaking requires taking initiative. It requires people to conflict, and do what is needed to resolve it. Just like Jesus took initiative to make peace with us, we should take initiative to make peace with others. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.**

- What is the difference between being peaceful and being a peacemaker?

## MAKING PEACE

There are three areas where someone should seek to make peace.

1. **We can initiate peace between God and others.** God uses us to make peace with people.
2. **We are peacemakers when we initiate peace between ourselves and others.** Sometimes other people wrong us, and sometimes we wrong other people. Either way, we should seek to restore peace between ourselves and others.
3. **We are peacemakers when we initiate peace between others.** This doesn't mean that we get to meddle in people's business, but we should call others into peace.
  - In what area do you have the hardest time initiating peace? How can you grow in that area?
  - Pray for the courage to be peacemakers.