

Peace means proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

WEEK
4

DAY 1

Read Matthew 5:9

Jesus spoke these words at the beginning of what we call “The Sermon on the Mount.” This is a longest recorded sermon in the Bible directly from Jesus. It’s kind of like His “constitution” or set of principles for believers (those who put their trust in Jesus) to follow.

Jesus tells us that those who make peace will be blessed. Not in, “Awesome, if I make peace with others, God will bless me with a cool new iPad” kind of way. Jesus wasn’t talking about being blessed with “stuff.” Jesus meant that we will be blessed as children of God. We’ll show others who God is and how much He loves them when we work to be peacemakers. Remember, you show you care about others by being part of the solution.

At a meal this week with your family, ask an adult to read Matthew 5:1-12 and discuss the following the questions:

- ➔ What are the eight “blessings” Jesus talks about?
- ➔ How are these values different from what we see sometimes in the world around us?
- ➔ When Jesus says, “Blessed” what was He talking about?

DAY 2

Read Hebrews 12:14

Writing your name. Learning to read. Riding a bike.

What do all these things have in common? These are all things you have to try. You can’t learn to ride a bike without actually riding it. You can’t write your name without picking up a pencil and forming letters on the page.

In order to be peacemakers, you simply have to try. You don’t have to do it perfectly the first time. Here are few practical things you can try in order to bring the peace.

Stop arguing and listen.

Take a deep breath and then count to ten before you say anything else. Walk away for a few minutes and think, “How can I bring peace right now?” Do not raise your voice or say something you don’t mean.

Pick one of these options to try this week whenever you find yourself in a situation that needs peace. Remember, you don’t have to do it perfectly but you can make an effort.

Ask God to help you try your best to live in peace with everyone.

DAY 3

Read James 3:18

When you first plant a seed, you don't see results right away. But if you keep at it, if you care for it, water it, give it plenty of sun light, it will sprout and grow. The same is true of our relationships with others. We have to do everything we can to live in peace, to be part of the solution. We have to keep at it, knowing that in the long run, our relationships will be stronger and better when we work towards peace.

Are there any plants in your home? Write down the words of today's verse on a card and place it next to your plant. If you don't have a plant at home, grab a piece of paper, draw a picture of a plant and write the words of today's verse along the bottom of the page. Each time you walk by your plant, or drawing, remember that peace is something you have to work towards every day! It doesn't just "happen." **You have to keep at it, just like you tend to a plant to help it grow.**

You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

DAY 4

Read Mark 9:50

Have you ever tasted a batch of French fries or tortilla chips without salt? Did you find yourself adding salt to make them taste better?

Just like salt makes those fries so much better, peace makes our relationships better! When there is a conflict, it's much better to work towards peace, to find a solution. It's impossible to agree on everything but you can work towards peace, even when you have a different point of view.

Make a Peacemaker Salt Shaker. Create a label by wrapping a piece of paper around a salt shaker from your kitchen and then cut around it. Make sure you leave the top uncovered so you can still get to the salt! Decorate and write the following words on your wrapper "Be a peacemaker!" then tape it around the shaker to secure.

Each time anyone in your family grabs the salt this week, remind them to be a peacemaker!