

## Bless This Home Peacemakers

**Blessed homes do not wish for peace; they make it (Matthew 5:9).** Every person experiences conflict in their relationships; it is inevitable, especially in our homes with those we are closest to and spend the most time with. Even mature followers of Jesus can have disagreements and struggles (Acts 15:36-40). It is a reality that if we are pursuing Jesus diligently, peace in relationships does *not* just happen. We must be intentional in taking steps to create peace with others. We become peacemakers in our relationships by utilizing the acronym P.E.A.C.E.

- P – Prayerfully plan a meeting.
- E – Empathize with their opinions and feelings.
- A – Attack the problem, not the person.
- C – Cooperate as much as possible.
- E – Emphasize reconciliation, not resolution.

### GET THINGS STARTED

What do you think it means to *fight rightly* in a relationship? How do so many people fight wrongly that leads to hurt, trauma, mistrust, and/or manipulation? What are the most common things that generate conflict in your relationships?

### GO DEEPER

1. What connection does Jesus make between our worship of God and our relational conflict, in Matthew 5:23-24? Who has the problem, and who must act to initiate peace? What does Jesus instruct us to do, and what impact does this have on our worship?
2. 1 Peter 4:8 makes it clear that *love covers a multitude of sins*. How do we determine when we should give the other person in a conflict a *pass* or when to take steps to address an issue with them? Why are text messages, emails, or social media platforms terrible places to have communication about the issue?
3. What should be our attitude and countenance in a conflict, according to James 1:19-20 and Ephesians 4:15? What makes these so challenging in the heat of a clash, and how do we mitigate or minimize those challenges?
4. From Romans 12:18, we are to do all we can to live at peace with others (i.e., *as far as it depends on you*). What do we do if the other person in a conflict is not interested in finding peace or reconciliation? What is our responsibility in those kinds of situations?
5. What is the difference between a peacekeeper and a peacemaker, and why is that significant?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Are you a peacemaker in your home? Why or why not? When it comes to relational conflict, do you tend to avoid the conflict altogether, capitulate to or accommodate the other person, or fight to win? What does conflict look like for you emotionally and verbally (e.g., raising your voice, emotional outbursts, silent treatment, accusations, etc.)?
2. Which part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym is most natural for you? Which is most challenging?
3. Do you have a relationship where there is not a mutual desire for peace and/or reconciliation? What have you done (or should you do) to establish peace *as far as it depends on you*?
4. What is one step you can take this week towards becoming a peacemaker in your home?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

**Take time as a group in prayer to ask God to make you peacemakers, especially in your home.** Ask Him to show you clearly what needs to change or shift in the way you navigate conflict. And for those who are currently in a conflict, ask God to show you what you need to do to pursue peace and reconciliation in the relationship. Ask Him for both wisdom and courage to follow His leading as you seek to make things right in the relationship.