

# fair fight

HOW TO  
RESOLVE  
CONFLICT

## Small Group Discussion Questions

### Making Peace – No. 2 God Is the Source of Peace

January 19, 2025

#### Theme: How are we to understand implement Jesus' call to be peacemakers?

Matthew 5:9 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." This is both a calling and an invitation. Together, as followers of Christ, we have the opportunity to explore what it truly means to be peacemakers in a world filled with conflict. Peacemaking isn't about avoiding disagreements or giving in to keep the peace—it's about actively pursuing reconciliation, truth, and harmony in our relationships. Through this study, we'll learn how to reflect God's heart by resolving conflicts in a way that brings healing and honors Him. Let's journey together toward living out this calling, growing in our understanding, and supporting one another in pursuing peace.

#### Gathering Together (Icebreaker - choose one)

How was conflict handled in your family growing up? How has that shaped the way you see and deal with conflict today?

Share a time when you observed someone navigate conflict as a peacemaker. What about their approach inspired or challenged you?

How do you typically handle conflict? Are you more likely to avoid, appease, or address it directly?

#### Deep Dive into Scripture

Read Matthew 5:9 together

Take turns reading the scripture passages out loud and spend time discussing your insights and observations.

##### 1. Who is God?

- Read: Colossians 1:19-20
- Question: What does this passage reveal about God's character as a peacemaker? How does Jesus embody peace?

##### 2. What has God done?

- Read: Colossians 1:21-22, Romans 5:1
- Question: How has God made peace with us? What was the cost of this reconciliation?

##### 3. Who am I?

- Read: Matthew 5:9, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
- Question: As a follower of Christ, how does being called a "child of God" or "Christ's ambassador" shape your identity as a peacemaker?

##### 4. What should we do?

- Read: Romans 12:18-21, James 3: 17-18
- Question: What practical steps can we take to resolve conflicts and plant "seeds of peace" in our relationships?

## Personal Application Questions

1. Reflecting on the PEACE framework, from Pastor Rich's sermon, which step do you find most challenging? Why?
  - **Plan a conference:** Take the initiative to meet face-to-face and address the conflict directly without avoiding or delaying.
  - **Empathize with their feelings:** Listen actively and consider the other person's perspective and emotions.
  - **Attack the problem, not the person:** Focus on resolving the issue rather than assigning blame or criticizing.
  - **Cooperate as much as possible:** Seek common ground and work together toward a solution, even if it requires humility and compromise.
  - **Emphasize reconciliation, not winning:** Prioritize restoring the relationship over "winning" the argument.
2. Think of a relationship or situation in your life where peace is missing. What is one step from the PEACE framework you can take this week to begin pursuing reconciliation?
3. How can you rely on God's peace to rule in your heart as you navigate challenging situations or relationships?

## Closing Prayer and Reflection

### Prayer:

Father, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ, Your ultimate peacemaker. Help us to reflect Your heart by bringing peace into our relationships. Give us courage to face conflict, humility to empathize with others, and wisdom to pursue reconciliation. May our lives bring glory to You as we live as Your children and ambassadors of peace. Amen.

### Reflection:

Spend a few moments in silence, asking God to reveal any relationships where you need to pursue peace. Write down one practical step you can take this week to be a peacemaker.

## Additional Resources

### Books:

- The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict by Ken Sande
- Emotionally Healthy Relationships by Pete Scazzero

### Podcasts:

- The Art of Relationships (Biola University Center for Marriage and Relationships)
- The Rebuilders Podcast by Red Church and Mark Sayers

### Scripture for Further Study:

- Ephesians 4:1-3
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Proverbs 15:1