



## PART 8: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

### INTRODUCTION

What if the underlying spiritual issue facing the Church today is that we've failed to take Jesus seriously enough? What if much of the culture's judgment of Christians isn't the result of Christians obeying Jesus, but the result of Christians ignoring him? What could look differently in culture, and in our lives, if we lived like Jesus was serious?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:9

John 3:17

Matthew 5:23-24

Romans 12:18

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Romans 5:1

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you've been a peace-faker (you wanted to keep the appearance of peace). Describe a time when you've been a peace-maker (you put in the time and effort to resolve conflict). Which of these do you find yourself being more often?
2. Read Romans 12:18. How does it change the way you feel about being a peace-maker to know that it may not be possible—that you are only responsible for your role in the peace-making process?
3. One decision peace-making requires is to get back to them, not get back at them. Do you find yourself most often getting back to people, or at people.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Who is a person you have not quit counting their sins against them? Why is this such a difficult step? Where would you be if God still counted your sins against you?
5. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What is your response to the fact that Jesus taught that it's more important to try to reconcile with another person than it is to offer a gift of gratitude to God?
6. Who do you need to extend forgiveness to as a first step towards reconciliation? When and how are you going to take that step?

### MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to not be content to merely avoid conflict, but to take the next step toward peace. I will begin with you.