

## Memory Verse:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." – Matthew 5:9

## Big Idea:

Peace comes when we are in right relationship with God! Peace means that Jesus is Lord of your life, your relationships, your attitude, your finances, your everything. Is peace the absence of conflict? Sometimes, but it is much more than that. True peace is actually the presence of righteousness. Without righteousness there is no lasting peace.

Therefore, a peacemaker is someone who brings righteousness into a situation. Peacemakers don't avoid conflict. Rather, they lovingly bring Jesus into the middle of the conflict. The benefit of being a peacemaker is that you will be called a son of God. It means that you will be a highly favored, privileged child of the Most High God. Look at this: The Prince of Peace is Jesus, who is the Son of God. If we bring reconciliation (make peace) between man & God through Christ, then we will be called sons of God.

Do you want peace? Then bring Christ into your situations, finances, and relationships. Stay focused on God and His truth. Ask the question, "What does God say about it?" Then believe it and confess it. Do this and you will be happy in God.

## Scripture and Discussion Questions: *Read the Bible passage(s) and discuss the questions.*

1. **James 3:17-18** – What characteristics does James say will produce peace? Discuss how we can practically sow these things into our relationships so that we can reap peace and righteousness. What have been some results of sowing selfishness and pride in your relationships? On the contrary, what kind of fruit have you seen in your life as a result of sowing peace?
2. **Proverbs 13:24 & Isaiah 57:21** – If righteousness brings peace, then what will sin always bring? Discuss how sin has affected our nation. In what ways have you seen conflict come from your sins? Right now, spend some time confessing your sins before God, repent, and submit that area of your life to God. He will forgive you and give you all you need to walk in righteousness. This will result in peace.
3. **Romans 14:17-19** – Arguing about what they ate and drank is an example of division and conflict coming from arguments over non-spiritual things. What practical things can we do to bring peace into our relationships? How does focusing on Christ bring peace? Should we compromise the Truth in order to bring peace? Why would this actually bring more conflict? Discuss your experiences with division in the church. How was this resolved? What will always resolve conflict among the brethren?

## Kids Corner:

Read the story of how Jesus brought peace by calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27). Make it dramatic and act it out. Then ask your children the following questions: (1) Who did the disciples turn to for help? (2) What did Jesus do? (3) Are there any areas or relationships in your life that feel out of control, like a storm? (4) How can we experience peace in that area of life? (5) Pray with your children for the presence of Christ and for His peace. Help walk them through repentance and forgiveness if necessary.

## Prayer Time:

Have a discussion with God about what you have just studied. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of conflict in your life (relationships, finances, health, etc.) and then examine to see if it is in right standing with God. Have you totally surrendered this area to God? Be honest before God and allow Him to work in you. Now, bring righteousness into that area of your life. Make it completely right before God. Give it to Jesus! Righteousness will bring peace!