



## Be a Bridge Builder – Week 7

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### Overview

In the seventh message of *Be Happy*, we learn that we can experience happiness when we live in peace and make peace.

#### Discussion Questions

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)**

We all know of conflict and tension that occurs within our country, within other countries, and between our country and other countries. God is aware of this tension and unrest, yet He calls us to fight for peace. Peace is not a passive word; God wants us to change our behavior to live in peace and make peace.

- Describe what living in peace looks like and sounds like to you.
- How would you make peace in an uneasy situation?

**2 Corinthians 7:15b** says, **“God has called us to peace.”**

Not only does it please God when we obey His word, but it brings us true happiness. Some of our instructions from God call for an inner change, like our attitudes or mindset. This call is one of behavior; we must take action to live in peace and make peace.

- What are some ways that we can fight for peace?

In **Romans 12:18**, the Apostle Paul tells us, **“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”** God does not tell us to simply pray and hope for peace. He tells us to do everything within our power to live in peace with others.

- How does the Holy Spirit help us when it comes to living peaceably with all men?

**Romans 14:19** reminds us, **“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”** Fortunately, we do not have to do this in our own strength, power, or knowledge.

## Three Truths About Peacemaking:

### 1. Peacemaking starts with God.

Once the Fall of Man occurred in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world. Prior to this, there was always peace. Once strife and fighting entered the world, we have a need for peace. God is the ultimate peacemaker. Just as He made peace with Adam and Eve in the garden, God began making peace for us when He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

- Where do we get the power and strength to make peace with others and to live in peace within ourselves?

### 2. Unforgiveness is the roadblock to peace.

Having unforgiveness or bitterness in our hearts blocks us from having inner peace and making peace with others. Just as God forgives us, we are to forgive others. God does not make us meet numerous conditions to receive forgiveness. We have to confess our wrong, apologize, change our ways, and He forgives us.

- Do you have trouble receiving God's forgiveness? If so, why?
- Do you have trouble forgiving others? If so, why?

### 3. Let's be peacemakers, not peacekeepers.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus called for us to be peacemakers. Peacekeepers just serve as referees and work to keep people apart. Jesus wants us to take action and actually make peace with others. He wants us to work to reconcile hearts, and He wants us to live in peace that only He can give us. It's one thing to upkeep peace where it exists, but God can empower us to make peace where none exists.

- Are you ready to make peace? What will be your first action step in making peace?

## Life Challenge

Take a moment to reflect and search your heart to see if there is anyone you need to forgive or ask for forgiveness. **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)**

## Prayer

*Thank You, Jesus, for forgiving our sins. Thank You for filling us with love, peace, and kindness. Strengthen us to show and share peace with others. Help us to live out the Beatitude in Matthew 5:9, and give us the strength and power to make peace where there is none. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.*