



## CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

### NOVEMBER 17, 2024

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**Title:** A Peace of Me: Conflict Resolution (Jesus Style)

**Preacher:** Rev. Matt Tuggle

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:2-10, 21-23, 38-44

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). However, in some way, with someone, we are all in some degree of conflict. So the question is, how do we navigate and resolve conflict in a way that aligns with our faith? In other words, how do we become people who make peace?

To be peacemakers, we must cultivate lives in which the Spirit changes and transforms us to become people who **seek reconciliation, show grace, and reflect the love of God** to the world around us.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read Matthew 5. Based on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, what are the qualities of a peacemaker? What are some practical steps we can take to cultivate these qualities in our own lives?
3. How does a biblical view of peace differ from the world’s view of peace (e.g., absence of conflict vs. reconciliation)?
4. How does having inner peace contribute to being a peacemaker and resolving conflict in relationships with others?

5. Read Matthew 5:43-45. How important is prayer in the work of peacemaking? Consider how prayer for others, especially those we are in conflict with, might help to foster peace.

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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Throughout November, we are learning how to cultivate lives in which we can experience peace within and around us through the practice of silence. We often think to experience peace, we need to eliminate things: conflict, worry, hurry, stress. However, we cannot simply avoid conflict, which is an inevitable part of relationships. What if instead, through the practice of silence, done for a while, we could cultivate peace in the middle of our current circumstances?

When it comes to being a peacemaker (marked by reconciliation, grace, and love), we find that there are things we can change and things we can't. This week, as you continue to practice silence, incorporate the serenity prayer into your quiet time: *"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."*

Think about this prayer in the context of a relationship in your life that requires grace and may need reconciliation. Create two lists: the things about this particular relationship that you cannot change, and the things you can. Pray over the first list, asking God for grace to accept and endure these things. Now, turn your attention to the second: What are the things you can change? Ask God to help you discern 1-2 things you can do this week to move toward that change and bring peace to the situation.