

## Abundant Kingdom Living: The Peacemaker

For the week of January 26, 2020

Full message available at [highpoint.church/currentseries](https://highpoint.church/currentseries)

### GOAL:

To understand and practice the discipline of peace for abundant Kingdom living.

### GET GOING:

- Based on this weekend's message, which of the 4 ingredients to providing, promoting and prospering peace do you find the most encouraging? Why is that?
  - We must know the prince of peace (Matt 5:9)
  - We must be the people of peace (Matt 5:9)
  - We must accept the Price of Peace (2 Cor 5:18)
  - We must Walk the Path of Peace (2 Cor 13:11)
- Martin Luther King Jr. said, *"It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it."* How does MLK's quote challenge or add to your understanding of peace?
- Merriam-Webster defines peace as: a) a state of tranquility or quiet, b) freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions. The word "peacemaker" in Matthew 5:9 literally means *"One who seeks to make peace amongst conflict,"* or *"those who promote God's messianic peace (Hebrew: shalom, total well-being both personally and communally)."* How does Webster's definition differ from what Jesus is saying in Matthew 5:9? In what ways are they similar?

### Memory Verse

*"But you have neglected the more important matters of the law— justice, mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23b).*



## KEEP GROWING:

- Biblical peace is *active and not passive*; biblical peace is about choosing to engage instead of disengaging; biblical peace is about *stepping forward and not sitting back*. How did your upbringing positively or negatively reinforce biblical peace?
- The Christian mode of living (behavior) is always a response to what Jesus accomplished for us in his death and resurrection. According to 2 Corinthians 5:11-19, how does Jesus' death allow us to be biblical peacemakers? What might that look like in your everyday life?
- Based on 2 Corinthians 5:18, the ministry of reconciliation is for those who identify themselves as Christians. On a scale of 1 (not at all), 3 (average), 5 (outstanding), how are you doing in:
  - A. helping people who don't have a relationship with God reconcile with God?
  - B. helping family and friends who are estranged from one another reconcile with each other?
  - C. welcoming the stranger and the refugee as they adjust to a new life in your neighborhood?
  - D. reconciling hundreds of years of American history with our black brothers and sisters (e.g. redlining, cocaine vs. opioid epidemic), Asian American brothers and sisters (e.g. Japanese internment camps, 1924 Asian Exclusion Act), Latino brothers and sisters (e.g. 1931 raids, "Mexican schools") and other people of color who have been systemically mistreated and marginalized?

### Bonus Challenge

The following are the "Top 5 Scriptures for the People of Peace"

1. We are called to Seek Peace (Psalms 34:14)
2. We are called to Grant Peace (Heb 12:14)
3. We are called to Experience Peace (Col 3:15)
4. We are called to Make Peace (Jam 3:18)
5. We are called to Pursue Peace (Romans 14:19)

Which do you need to practice this week? In what context will you practice one of the Scriptures?

