

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

2. LifeJournal

Last Sunday we read John 7:32-36. Share your SOAP application or prayer with your group. *Next week, pay special attention to John 8:39-47 as we will be discussing this passage together.

3. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

This week, our message was from Matthew 5:9. Read the passage and dive into the questions below.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

1. How would you describe peace?
2. What do you think is the difference between a peace keeper and a peace maker?
3. We often call Jesus, "Prince of Peace." How is peace making an integral part of the Gospel message¹?
4. In Jesus' ministry, how did he make peace? How might this peace be similar and/or different than the peace the world describes?
5. To "make peace" with someone is not always easy. Why do you think peacemaking is so counterintuitive in our world today?
6. How are peacemaking and forgiveness related?
7. Describe a time where you experienced a conflict that required you to actively make peace? What did you do?

¹ The only other time the Greek word for "peacemaker" (εἰρηνοιοί) is used is in Colossians 1:20 "peace"/εἰρηνοίησας.

4. Apply: Next Faithful Step

Jesus describes a new life and lifestyle that comes to those who have entered the kingdom. There is a new life direction and a new purpose in life.

1. How might being involved in God's Kingdom work of peacemaking look like for you in your home, school, work, church and/or community?
2. Peacemaking can be.. and often is.. costly. Where has peacemaking been a hard space for you? Discuss your thoughts and pray with a partner.

5. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our Red Letter series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.

