Matthew 5:9 May 19, 2024

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

BONUS CONTENT

 Fore more information on how to be a peace-maker, especially in the context of small group relationships, check out this article: https://www.smallgroups.com/articles/2016/how-to-be-peacemaker.html

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

• As a group, talk about some of the conflicts, wars, or disagreements that you have experienced over the last few weeks (globally or personally). Read James 4:1-3 and talk about what the Bible says is at the root of each of these conflicts. How does that change the way you view personal peace and conflict?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- Remember what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to follow up on this week?
- Review your Sermon Notes together. What is one thing that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- Read this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat shared two ways that followers of Jesus can be peacemakers.

Two Ways to be a Peacemaker:

- 1. By sharing the Gospel (Romans 5:1 and Colossians 1:20)
 - Warren Weirsbe said, "Christians should bring peace, between people and God and between those who are odds with each other. We share the Gospel of peace."
 - How is Jesus the ultimate example of a "peace-maker"?
 - If you are going to live and love like Jesus, what can you do to follow His example in this area? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:20)
 - Right now as a group, take a few minutes to share the names of people you know who need spiritual peace. Pray that God will give you open doors to talk to them about Jesus this week.
- 2. Be reconciling conflict between others (Hebrews 12:14 and Romans 12:18)
 - While making peace between two people can be messy, it is biblical and necessary. If you are one
 of those people who "doesn't like confrontation", are you willing to enter into a messy situation in
 order to be a peace-maker? If not, why not?
 - Is there someone you are personally in a conflict with right now? What might you do in order to initiate the peace-making process between the two of you this week? Ask yourself this question, "How can I bring peace like Jesus did in this situation?"

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard? ("I will...")

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

• Pray that you will pursue peace, not just wait for it. Pray that there will be "nothing between" you and God or anyone else.

