

Session 7: Matthew 5:9

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: God has placed us in specific places and around specific people so that we can bring peace into our broken world.

Head Change: To know that every Christian is called to be a peacemaker in the domains God has placed us.

Heart Change: To feel a deep desire to bring peace wherever we see the brokenness of sin.

Life Change: To proactively look for ways to establish God's peace in the areas where he has placed us.

OPEN

Have you ever felt a deep sense of peace? What was that like?

We tend to think of peace as a quiet afternoon, a calm feeling, or an absence of conflict. But Jesus's idea of peace is much deeper than we might think. It is not just the absence of violence and conflict, but a deep harmony throughout all creation. In this session, Matt will show us the Bible's view of peace and our call to create flourishing in the world around us.

READ

Read Matthew 5:1–12. Continue to memorize the Beatitudes with your group.

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Matt's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

What words did Matt use to help us understand biblical peace?

Why does peacemaking feel too big for us?

What is the most peacemaking activity we can do?

Show Session 7: *Matthew 5:9* (10 minutes).

DISCUSS

We live in an angry, anxious, and disoriented world where peace seems not just elusive, but downright unattainable. But it is precisely to this world, and God’s people, that Jesus speaks these words: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” **To what extent does peace seem far-off or impossible to you? Why does it feel so unattainable?**

The Beatitudes show how God designed humanity to function and flourish. And the idea of flourishing is central to the concept of peace or *shalom*. Matt used words like harmony, wholeness, and rhythm to describe God’s vision of peace, comparing it to a well-tuned orchestra. **In what ways is this idea of *shalom*, of harmony and flourishing, different from our ideas of peace?**

What might harmony and flourishing look like in our world today?

[Note: For a deeper dive on the biblical concept of *shalom*, see **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of this session.]

Peace is not just a seemingly impossible task—it’s hard work that requires long-term commitment and wisdom. But it is the work God calls us, his sons and daughters, to apply ourselves to. **What things tend to keep us from working to create peace? What are some of the barriers that you personally encounter when trying to make peace at work? With your family? With your neighbors? How could you overcome those barriers?**

LAST WORD

In a world filled with disorder and division, the *shalom* of God feels impossible, far out of reach. But you have been uniquely wired and uniquely placed to bring peace into the world. God is simply calling you to live faithfully right where you are. You can't solve world peace, but you can start to create it on your block.

So, get to know your neighbors and serve them when opportunities arise. Seek forgiveness and to restore broken relationships in your family. Be kind and encouraging to the people you encounter every day. Pray for your enemies. Carry the *shalom* of God with you everywhere you go.

GO DEEPER

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group discussion by providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a place where the following segment could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide.

But you can also use this section as a short devotional to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider reading this section to deepen your study of the Beatitudes.

1. Shalom

The biblical concept of peace is best captured by the Hebrew word *shalom*. It describes more than a quiet day on the beach or a lack of stress and anxiety. It is more than the absence of conflict; it's an all-encompassing harmony and wholeness in the world that leads to the flourishing of all people. *Shalom* is the world restored, full of joy, laughter, celebration, and love.

When you compare the world's idea of peace with that of the Bible, in what ways is the Bible's vision of peace more appealing?

RightNow Presents The Beatitudes
STUDY GUIDE

Copyright © 2022 RightNow by RightNow Ministries

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this guide may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher, except where noted on handouts and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and review.

Written by Jordan Wootten.

All Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Doctrinal Statement can be found at rightnow.org

For information, write:

Permissions
RightNow Ministries
6300 Henneman Way
McKinney, Texas 75070

RightNow is a non-profit ministry.

Published by RightNow