

**Waging Peace (2 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, February 25th, 2024**



**Series Focus:** At the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and cried aloud, “If only you knew the things that make for peace.” And then Jesus spends each day confronting injustice, calling out oppressors, and contending for peace. But what if—despite our familiarity with the events of Holy Week—we have not fully understood or embraced how Jesus makes peace and calls us to do the same? Join us for Lent as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week and discover anew why he is called the Prince of Peace, and what it looks like when we are waging peace like him.

**Sermon Title:** The Whip of Christ

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:11,15-18; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22

**Sermon Focus:** Perhaps the most misunderstood action of Jesus in Holy Week is when he went into the temple with a homemade whip, turned over tables, and drove out animals and money changers. This event on Holy Monday has been used by some misguided Christians to justify a self-indulgent anger toward oppressors and violence against evildoers by others. In the second message of our series, Pastor David helps us to make sense of Jesus’ actions and then apply the Lord’s example to our own lives.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading all gospel accounts of Holy Monday from the Scripture references above. What is the same? What is different? Before the sermon on Sunday, what was your understanding of this story? Did anything change?
2. Have you seen others use Jesus' cleansing or clearing of the temple to justify violence in the name of God? If so, how? And what do you think of the way Pastor David explained the evidence that Jesus' actions were not violent.
3. Is there a difference between "pacifism" and passivism? Also, do you think there is a difference between believing in "non-resistance" and non-violence?
4. Based on the 3 lessons in peacemaking for this Sunday, share where you're at in your journey using the following questions:
  - Do I assess the situation before reacting to an issue/problem? How do I need to listen and learn more before I try to help?
  - Have I wrongly assumed that the non-violent way of Jesus is passive? How is God inviting me to reimagine love in action?
  - What would it look like if I channeled my zeal and passion for righteousness into acts that aim to resist, heal, and restore?
5. Pastor David shared several stories from our congregation to illustrate what it looks like to put this week's lessons in peacemaking into practice. Were you aware of these stories? What other examples come to your mind?
6. Jesus' actions on Monday only temporarily suspended the temple's exploitative practices. The money changers and animal sellers inevitably returned. Given that observation, what role do you think symbolic actions play in our efforts to make peace? Can you think of some modern-day symbolic actions?
7. As you reflect on the Scriptures and the message from Sunday, what is God saying to you? Try to put it into a sentence or two. How is the Spirit speaking to you? Once everyone has shared, close your time by praying for each other.