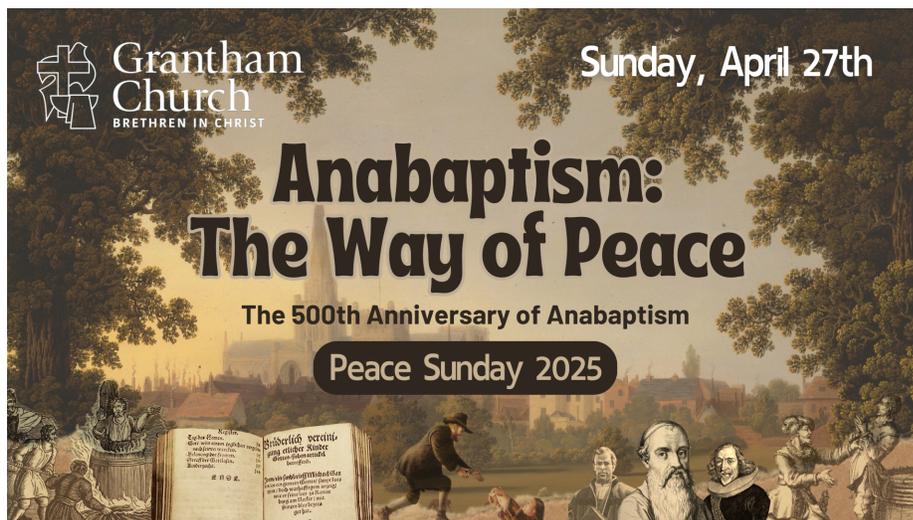


Peace Sunday 2025
Small Group Discussion Questions

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, April 27th, 2025



Series Focus: This year marks the 500th anniversary of the sixteenth century Anabaptist movement. The Brethren in Christ Church started with Anabaptists in Lancaster County who had experienced a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit in the late 1700s. Therefore, on Peace Sunday 2025, we are celebrating the beginnings of Anabaptism, its core beliefs and theological convictions, its call to radical discipleship, and its potential as a much-needed renewal movement within American Christianity. Please join us as we focus on *Anabaptism: The Way of Peace* and highlight the need for the Brethren in Christ U.S. to own our original stream, for such a time as this.

Sermon Title: Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 10:25-37

Sermon Focus: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt. 5:9). This beatitude calls us to work for the *shalom* (greatest good) of all those within our sphere of influence. It seeks to remove our comfort with the status quo that doesn't benefit our sisters and brothers. It also works for unity and reconciliation. In today's message, Pastor Hank Johnson shares how disciples look like Christ and honor our God and Father by being peacemakers in the way of Jesus.

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 Matthew 5:1-12 and Luke 10:25-37 silently and then as a group. Now take some time to respond to the following questions:
 1. *Who is my neighbor? Who comes to mind?*
 2. *How is God calling on me to love my neighbor in this season?*
 3. *How can I bring peace by working for the greatest good for my sisters and brothers around me?*
 4. *How can I bring peace by not settling for a status quo that hurts those around me?*
 5. *How can I bring peace by doing God's work for His glory and for the shalom of my sisters and brothers?*

2. Pastor Hank Johnson said this about folks in central Pennsylvania: "We know how to smile and serve without having our heart in it. We know how not to like you, but make you think we are tolerant." Hank said that God cares not only about right living and action, but also right *thinking* and what is in our heart.

Why do you think we can sometimes focus more on outward actions (e.g., benevolence, serving, doing justice, etc.) and not give attention to our heart? Are there things in your heart that God is inviting you to give attention? If so, what are they? Be honest and share how the Spirit is speaking to you.

3. Jesus has forgiven us and continues to forgive us for our failures. Hank said that we should be people who promote forgiveness with our lives. We look like Jesus when we do this, but we look like the world when we don't. Are you carrying the burden of unforgiveness? Is there anyone that you need to forgive?

4. Hank pointed out that we are called to be "peace-makers" (Matt. 5:9) in our relationships and within our sphere of influence. This is an active call from Jesus to do the kinds of things that will bring true *shalom* (harmony) around you. How is the Spirit inviting you to be a peacemaker in this season of your life?

5. The Bible says that we can have peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with our family, and peace with all those around us. Do you feel that you're lacking in peace with any of those? Share that with the group and explain why. Encourage each other to live at peace and shalom with everyone. And then end your time praying for more peace in you, our church, and our world.