

Sermon on the Mount: Instruments of Peace

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 5:9-12: Peacemaking & Persecution

1. How would you define peace making? What is the difference between peace making and peace keeping?
2. Peace making requires work. Can you share a time when you had to move toward a conflict rather than avoiding it? What did that experience teach you?
3. In what areas of your life—family, work, church, community—do you feel God might be calling you to be an instrument of peace right now? What makes this challenging?
4. Discuss the difference between peacemaking and the absence of conflict, the avoidance of conflict, and the appeasement of others. What might reconciliation look like in our relationships?
5. Have you ever found yourself in the middle of someone else's conflict trying to bring peace? How did it affect you, and what sustained you through that experience?
6. Talk about Jesus' teaching that we are to rejoice and be glad when we are persecuted for our faith. What does it look like to find joy in the midst of suffering?