**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever been in a fight over something that afterwards seemed dumb or silly? Why do you think we have the tendency to fight over insignificant matters with such ferocity and passion?*
* *Take a brief survey of the current state of your home, marriage, community, city, nation. Are these places of relationship at peace? What in your opinion would bring more peace to these places?*

*We all want our family to enjoy peace, happiness, and contentment. However, we so often stumble through our most important relationships. In "Bless This Home," we will discover four life-altering qualities: purity, peace, righteousness, and persecution. This week we will focus our time on Matthew 5:9, “Blessed arte the Peacemakers for they will be called children of God.”*

**Start Digging: Read Matthew 5:1-12 & Romans 12:9-21**

* *How are these two passages of scripture similar? How are they different?*
* *Romans 12:9-21 lists the marks of a true follower of Jesus. Take a moment to list out each characteristic. Which of these marks defines you? Which marks do not define you?*
* *What does it mean to abhor what is evil? In your home, marriage, neighborhood is there something that is evil that you are to abhor?*
* *Romans tells us to abhor what is evil and at the same time bless those who persecute us (Vs. 14), not to repay evil for evil (Vs. 17), or seek vengeance (Vs. 19). How can we hate evil and yet at the same time be a blessing to those who do evil?*
* *How do you feel about scripture telling us God is a vengeful God? Does the reality that God will repay evil change the way you can respond to those who do you wrong?*
* *What do you think causes individuals or groups of individuals to do evil? Have you ever done an evil deed? Where you aware of it at the time?*
* *Honestly evaluate yourself. Are you more of a Peacemaker or a Peacekeeper? What is the difference between the two? See notes on other side for a definition. When have you experienced being a peacemaker or peacekeeper?*

**Digging Deeper:**

* *What is one insight, observation, or truth that you are taking away from this study?*
* *What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?*

“Bless This Home”

“Blessed are the Peacemakers”

Wave Church SD | Aug. 20th, 2017

**Matthew 5:9** **(ESV)** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

**AS CHILDREN OF GOD WE ARE PEACEMAKERS**

**NOT PEACEKEEPERS**

* **PEACEKEEPERS AVOID CONFLICT TO KEEP THE PEACE.**
* **PEACEMAKERS EMBRACE CONFLICT TO MAKE PEACE.**

**TWO TRUTHS FOUND IN THE PEACE OF GOD**

* **GOD DEFENDS ME SO I DON’T HAVE TO.**

**Psalms28:7(ESV)** *The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

* **IT’S GOD’S JOB TO CHANGE HEARTS NOT MINE.**

**Jeremiah 24:7 (ESV)** *I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.*

**WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN HOME,**

**WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME.**

**Romans 12:18, 21 (ESV**)*. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

**WHAT DO PEACEMAKERS DO?**

* **FIND PEACE IN GOD**

**Genesis 2:25 (ESV)**And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**Matthew 4:17(ESV**) *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

* **FIGHT HEALTHY**

**Ephesians 4:25-32 (ESV)***Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27and give no opportunity to the devil. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

* **TELL THE TRUTH IN LOVE**

**Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)***Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ…*

* **SEEK FORGIVENESS OFTEN**

**James 5:16 (ESV)** *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

* **FORGIVE AND LET GO**

**Colossians 3:13(ESV)** *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*