

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 20, 2016

Matthew 5:9

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Connection Questions:

1. When you think of the image of peace, of what do you think?
2. Talk about some of the images Jesus uses that point to peace. How do these images increase our understanding?
3. When it comes to valuing peace some scholars argue that at certain times one can value peace while making an argument for a justified war. Do you agree with that assumption? Why or why not?

4. There have been others in our history such as Martin Luther King and Gandhi who have held the pacifist point of view. Do you agree or disagree with this perspective? Why or why not?

5. On Palm Sunday as Jesus enters the temple he becomes angry and turns over the tables of the money changers. Discuss why he did this. If you are committed to being a peacemaker, is anger ever justified in responding to certain situations? If so, when?

6. The word peace means mutual harmony between people and groups. Is peace even possible in a world with so many diverse cultures? Why or why not?

7. In our modern day culture is it possible to discuss political issues with people from another party and value peace in the discussion? Why or why not?

8. As we reflect on the biblical drama discuss overall ways that God acted as a peacemaker. How can we use what we know about God to assist us in being a peacemaker?

9. Is it possible in a complex world with complex lives to be at peace with yourself? If so, how?

10. Can having certain spiritual disciplines help us in being at peace with ourselves in the world? If so, share ideas about some possible disciplines that help you to become more like the Prince of Peace.