

blessed
october 22/23

talk **IT** over
THE PATHWAY
OF PEACE

looking AT

Talk about the following verse as a group and how it applies to your individual lives: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."* MATTHEW 5:9 [NIV]

looking IN

Conflict resolution is one of the most important life skills, yet it is rarely taught in the home or at school. But Jesus teaches us that unresolved conflict blocks our fellowship with God and our happiness.

- ▶ What does a peacemaker look like?
- ▶ When you are in conflict, would you consider yourself a skunk (you stink the place up) or a turtle (you withdraw to a safe place)?
- ▶ Describe a past relationship that conflict destroyed. How has the pain from this broken relationship influenced your life?
- ▶ Does this make you more or less likely to make the first move toward reconciliation in the future?

looking AT

Read the following verse out loud. Then, talk about how this verse applies to your lives: *"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."* JAMES 3:18 [NIV]

looking IN

Many times we do not have peace with others because we do not have peace with ourselves. William Hazlitt said, "Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves."

Share your responses with the group:

- ▶ Sometimes we create our own strife. Reflect and share whether any of these issues have ever caused a lack of peace in your life: Loneliness? Bitterness? Anger? Insecurities? Depression? Brokenness? Selfishness?

looking AROUND

Fear of being exposed or vulnerable can be a barrier in resolving conflict. Fear can make you defensive (afraid to reveal your true self), distant (hide your true feelings) or demanding (try to control or have the last word). *Brainstorm the following as a group:*

- ▶ Share helpful steps to overcome fears to aid in conflict resolution.
- ▶ What current relationship(s) could benefit from overcoming these fears?

looking UP

Pair up with two others in your group. Close this time by praying for each other, specifically that God would give you the strength to be a "bringer of peace" in order to breathe new life into your relationships.

looking OUT

Who do you need to be reconciled with today?
Practice being a peacemaker!

QUESTIONS?

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