

Peace Sunday 2023
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 30th 2023



Guest Speaker: Jim Amstutz

Sermon Title: Blessed are the Peacemakers: Listen, Learn & Love

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:17-21

Sermon Focus: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt. 5:9). As disciples we are called to be peacemakers in the way of Jesus. How can we find practical ways to witness to what we believe with those with opposing viewpoints and actions? In *Blessed are the Peacemakers: Listen, Learn & Love*, Jim Amstutz shares how can we listen, learn, and love to transform potential conflict into opportunities for mission, service, and peace in everyday life.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt. 5:9). It's important to note that Jesus isn't telling us to avoid conflict or to be "peaceful" people. Instead, he is telling us to be people who do the sort of things that *make for peace* in the world. What opportunities often arise in your daily life where you can act and respond in a way that makes for peace?
2. Think more deeply about the second part of the beatitude in Matthew 5:9. Jesus says that "peacemakers" reveal themselves to be God's children. So, naturally, if we're not seeking peace and working for peace in our lives, we aren't living into our true identity as God's children. Christians in America are known for lots of things. Why do you think we're not known more for peacemaking? What can we do to change our reputation, from our daily living to our public presence?
3. Jim said that we need to practice "calling people in" instead of "calling people out" with shame and condemnation. He gave an example of how Loretta Ross's family member made a racist comment, so she responded by acknowledging the family member's good nature and then asking them, "How does your comment line up with what I know of you and correspond with your faith?" Did you find this helpful? Have you ever tried this approach with anyone?
4. Continue to reflect on "calling people in" instead of "calling people out" by using guilt, shame, and condemnation. Can you think of examples where "calling people out" escalated anger/tensions or even led to a fight? What about examples from our culture? In what ways do people get "called out" today? If "calling people out" doesn't work, why do you think we keep doing it?
5. Read Romans 12:17-21 two times. Take a couple of minutes to read the passage silently and then have someone read it aloud in the group. Then take one more minute to sit in silent prayer. Ask God, "*Lord, what are you saying to me in this passage? How do you want me to respond?*" And then listen for God's voice.

After a time of silent prayer, share what you hear God saying to you. Once everyone has shared, close your time by praying for each other.