



## Sermon Outline

### Key verses

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Romans 12:17-18

### Jesus calls us to be peacemakers

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

Matthew 5:9

*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

1 Corinthians 10:3

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Ephesians 6:12

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

## PEACE

MARCH 9  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Opening Thought

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The early Anabaptists emphasized following in his ways and overcoming evil, not with violence, but with good. When Christ is Lord of your life, you experience peace with God, peace with others, and peace within. This is one of the most radical of teachings of our Lord. *"If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."* (Matthew 5:39) This sort of radical faith leaves a legacy for generations to come, and it advances our mission of sharing the life-giving power of Jesus with the world.

### Ice breaker

- As a kid, were you more of a troublemaker or a peacemaker?
- When have you seen someone not retaliate when they could have?

### Dig Deeper

- What tends to be your response when you are wronged?
- We are often drawn to stories where vengeance is served. Why is that?
- Read Romans 12:14-21. What stands out to you?
- Paul says that we are to endure the harm without giving it back. Does this mean we are passive and just take the harm being done to us? Explain your answer.
- What is your response to "do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good?" How does that even work?
- How does a peace witness proclaim Christ to unbelievers?
- What things are posing the greatest threat to you having peace in this season? Circumstances, people, your attitude, the political divide, etc.

### Closing

What steps do you need to take this week toward reconciling with someone? What hurt do you need to take to the Lord? Once we have placed the desire for vengeance into the Lord's hands, we are freed up to love our enemies and do good to them. Our focus can be on mercy because we know God is just.