

Ice Breaker

(in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share about a time you tried something new and failed (funny or serious). How did you keep going—or did you give up?

Talk About it!

Part 1

Read Matthew 5:9 and talk about it:

1. What does it mean in your mind to be a peacemaker?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose peacemakers rather than peacekeepers?
3. Which one do you most often fall into—peacemaker, peacekeeper, or peacebreaker? Why?
4. Which of the peacemaking practices listed in the sermon (Keeping in Step with the Peacemaker (God), forgiveness, humility, brave conversations, not gossiping, etc.) stands out to you as most needed in your life right now?
5. Is there someone in your life right now that you are wanting to make peace with? Or are praying that it'd be possible? (You don't have to share names, but how can the group support and pray for you?)

Part 2

Read Matthew 5:10–12 and talk about it:

1. What do you think about Jesus saying to “be glad” when persecuted or lied about? Why do you think he commands us to do this?
2. Have you ever experienced pushback (from outside or inside the church) for trying to follow Jesus faithfully? What happened, and how did you respond?
3. How can we tell the difference between genuine persecution for righteousness and simply facing consequences for our own mistakes?