

“What’s going on?”

ATTN: LIFEPOINT KIDS & STUDENTS!!

+ LifePoint Kids Pool Party, Friday, July 12th 6:30-8:00pm - Join us as we enjoy the pool at Indian Mounds on Friday July 12th! Feel free to come as a family! Concessions will be open and available. Bring your towel and we'll see you there. (Every child must be with an adult.)

+ LifePoint Student Ministries - Jr. High (6th - 8th) meets at LifePoint on Sunday evenings from 5pm-6:30pm and Senior High (9th-12th) meets at LifePoint from 6:30pm-8pm on Sundays as well. Have your students join us as we spend time in the book of Daniel and EAT PIZZA!! We hope to see them soon!

MATTHEW 5 : 9

ICE BREAKER

Question: Name your favorite hero or peacemaker in a movie or story.

Question: If you could describe your perfect, relaxing day, what would it look like?

CENTERING FOCUS

In order to center our focus, read this passage aloud, pausing with each line. After this is read, spend a few minutes meditating on Jesus as our peace.

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:4-6

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week's challenge was to take one of our observations from Acts 1:8 and try to use the tool of interpretation.

Question: How did this go? Was it difficult? What did you discover through this process?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

Question: What is one reason you avoid conflict? What is a benefit of conflict?

Question: What does peace mean to you? What is the opposite of peace?

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:19-22- *“For in him (Jesus) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him”*

Question: What are the things we can know about Jesus from this passage?

Question: Jesus is the first and greatest peacemaker. According to this passage, who did Jesus make peace with? How did Jesus make peace?

Question: What are the words used to describe us before receiving peace? What are the words used to describe us after receiving peace?

Question: After reading and observing this passage, how might you define the kind of peace that Jesus gives?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21- *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

We learned in the passage above that peace comes from being reconciled to Jesus. Through his life, death and resurrection he brought harmony, unity, and wholeness.

Question: Who is a new creation in Christ? Share a way you see evidence of new life in you right now.

Question: According to this passage, what now does Christ entrust us with?

Question: What does it mean to be an ambassador? What message are we called to relay?

Question: Have you ever thought of reconciliation as ministry? What about as worship? How is peacemaking and reconciliation worship?

Question: How does it change your everyday life knowing you've been called to such a great responsibility?

Matthew 5:9- *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

Question: What is the relationship between being an ambassador and being a son or daughter of God?

We are called to be peacemakers, but most of us grow up learning how to be “*peacefakers*” in two ways:

1. Faking peace- We avoid conflict, sweep things under the rug, or pretend you didn't hear or see something.
2. Breaking peace- We say what needs to be said or do what needs done, even if it hurts someone with the goal of winning.

Question: Which one of these do you identify with most? How have you seen this play out in your life?

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

Question: Is there someone in your life that you need to make peace with? This week meditate on Romans 5:8, and pray for God to change your heart and give you the courage to pursue peace.

NEW CHALLENGE

This week our challenge is to practice using the tool of application. If you have your observations, and you came to an interpretation based on some context, the next step would be to apply this truth.

The overarching question to ask yourself once you've interpreted a passage of scripture is:
How will I change now that I know this?