

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

May 2nd, 2010

Focus: To engage the beatitude of peacemaking and evaluate how it might change our world.

The Beatitudes Peacemakers -Lesson 7

Introduction: Begin your time together engaging in a conversation about the Civil Rights Movement in this country. Discuss its origins, its leaders, its tactics, and its results.

- Share your personal thoughts on how this country has changed over the last 60 years in dealing with those who don't think, act, look, or believe as we do.

Text: Matthew 5: 9; Luke 10:25-37

- Share your definition of what Jesus means by a 'peacemaker'.
- Explore the connection between Jesus' use of 'Kingdom of God' and his definition here of 'peacemaker'.
- Read the Luke 10 passage and share your initial thoughts
- Discuss the characters of the story and their connection to this beatitude.
- How might mercy and forgiveness be linked to peacemaking?

Application

- Discuss Martin Luther King's statement. "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. We never get rid of an enemy by meeting hate with hate; we get rid of an enemy by getting rid of enmity. By its very nature, hate destroys and tears down; by its very nature, love creates and builds up."
- Compare the life of hate and blame to the life of forgiveness.
- How do you view others that disagree with you?
- How might peacemaking be linked to owning the other beatitudes?
- How might peacemaking change your relationship with your....parents, children, church, enemies, etc?
- How might you engaging fully in the blessing of peacemaking change this church?