FAITH COMMUNITY

Peace With Others

Study Questions

Romans 12:17-18

November 5, 2017

What you'll do this week: dissect two verses from the Bible, pray together, check-in with your service project, commit to making peace.

Accountability check in: Did you do what you committed to from last week? Share with your group.

1. Have your group come up with a definition of the word "peace".

2. Ask someone to read Romans 12:17-18. How do you think the Bible would define peace in these verses?

3. Verse 14 tells us not to curse those who persecute us. Verse 17a says we are not to retaliate in any way. What are some of the inherent outcomes of a cycle of "repaying evil for evil"? If we know these outcomes are a certainty and always negative, why do we still feel the compulsion to repay evil for evil? Have you seen or experienced this disastrous cycle before? If you are willing, tell us about it.

4. Invite someone to read Matthew 5:38-42 and Matthew 6:12-15 and discuss these two famous passages with your group. Are there places in your life where you need to put these into practice? How could you go about it?

5. Verse 18 says, "If at all possible…" What are some scenarios that would make peace "not possible"? If peace is not possible in a situation, do we (believers in Christ) ever have a free pass to unload on the other party? If peace is <u>not</u> possible, how should we live? Does living "with everyone" include people in our office we don't like, those of a different political bent, or those who see the world differently than we do? If so, why don't we do it?

6. Identify a person with whom you should make peace with this week. Commit to making every effort to do it. If you can't think of anyone or any situation, commit to praying for those in your group who acknowledge this. Pray for them several times this week.