

April 8, 2018



TODAY'S opportunity...

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3 NIV)

- Peacemaking - the spiritual power to reconcile ("make friendly again")
- You cannot avoid conflict
- Unresolved conflict can bring tragic results

SPARK + FUEL = FIRE!!

- God's better way through conflict is the Way of Jesus (the Gospel of Christ)
- Spiritual power to be a peacemaker grows in us when the way of Jesus is what we... accept, as *THE* solution for peace (shalom), believe, trusting in what God can do, and imitate, in the real world!
- A heart changed by Christ can glorify God in any situation!



Starting point toward peace:

"How can I please & honor God in this?"

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

Jesus



Getting started...

How would you symbolize peacemaking? Why?
What makes peacemaking effective?



Start thinking...

Briefly review the sermon together. What stood out to you as worth remembering? What questions were raised that you would like to discuss with our group?

Going deeper...

In what way are peacemakers "blessed," as God sees it? (Matthew 5:9)

How have you seen conflict end badly? How did it end up affecting you?

Why is it important to make what God wants the *top* priority in conflict resolution?

God's better way through conflict is the "*Way of Christ*." How have you seen this illustrated?

Start doing...

Read chapters 1-2 of *Resolving everyday Conflict*, by Ken Sande & Kevin Johnson.

Identify at least one thing about God Himself that helps you to accept, believe, and imitate Christ's way through conflict.

Choose a verse from the box below and either memorize it or write a prayer of hope for dealing with conflict in this season of your life.

Key Scriptures

Proverbs 16:7; Matthew 5:9; 5:23-24; Luke 6:27-28;
Romans 5:1-5; 12:17-19; 1 Corinthians 10:31;
2 Corinthians 5:18-21; 13:10-12; Ephesians 4:25-32;
1 Peter 2:9-10; 4:11-14; James 4:1-2