

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 15, 2013

Passage: Matthew 5:9

Memory Passage: Matthew 5:9 (and review your memory of Matthew 5:1-8)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:1-8:** By way of review: How does a person become pure in heart? What does being pure in heart mean? What does the life of one whose heart is pure look like, and can one lose his/her pure heart?
- (b) Explain the blessing/promise that the pure in heart shall see God. How do believers see God today? In the next age?
- (c) Write at least 3 applications from last week (from your study, your Sunday school discussion, or the sermon) that you are going to be intentional about implementing in your life this week.
- (d) *Family:* Lead your family through a review of what you learned last week, and review ways that your family can apply what you learned. You may use (a) – (c) above if you need help structuring the review.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:9; Ps. 85; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 8:6; Col. 1:19-20.** The word “peace” occurs 367 times in the ESV, so we will be able to examine only a few references. According to Ps. 85, what are God’s people asking Him to do? What is the “peace” that God will speak, and what does the phrase “righteousness & peace kiss each other” mean in the context of this Psalm?
- (b) The word peace occurs twice in Romans 5-8. Write down what you learn about peace in these 2 references? How does what you learn help you understand Matt. 5:9? How does Matthew 5:9 help you apply what you learned in Romans 5-8?
- (c) What type of peace does Jesus provide in Col. 1:19-20 and how does He provide it? Synthesizing these passages reveals an overarching truth: God is the author and provider of peace for His people. How does this truth confirm Jesus’ intent in the Beatitudes (i.e., that the Beatitudes are a description of the character and actions of the subjects of Jesus’ kingdom)?
- (d) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (c) above, making sure they understand that anyone who is to be a peacemaker must first possess the peace between themselves and God that is provided by God Himself through the blood of Jesus. It is this peace that they must seek as a priority.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:14-21; Rom. 14:17-19.** How is the command to “live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18) related to the other commands in Rom. 12:14-21? Why does Paul qualify this command with, “if possible, as far as it depends on you?” What would make it *not* possible to live peaceably with everyone? How should we respond when it is not possible?
- (b) Explain this phrase: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking” (Rom. 14:17). You must base your explanation on the context of Romans 14. How is the kingdom of God “a matter of peace,” and how is this related to “righteousness” and “joy in the Holy Spirit?”
- (c) What exactly do we do to “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding?” In what ways do you struggle to be a peacemaker with regard to these specific areas itemized in Romans 12 & 14? Write down at least 3 ways that you will seek to be this kind of peacemaker in these areas in the coming weeks.
- (d) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (c) above. Make sure everyone understands that there might be some cases in which you are not at peace with someone, but that this should only happen when the other party refuses to keep peace, and our goal is still to pursue peace in spite of their discord. Also, help them to be specific with ways they (both as a family unit & as an individual) will seek to be peacemakers in the area of personal freedoms so that they are not judging others or causing them to stumble.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:9; Eph. 4:1-6; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:22.** Explain what Paul is teaching in Eph. 4:3. Answer questions such as, “What is the bond of peace?” and “Is the bond of peace what ensures the unity of the Spirit or is it the unity of the Spirit that ensures the bond of peace?” and “How do vs. 1-2 & 4-6 relate to this eagerness we are commanded to have?”
- (b) Of what relationship is Paul speaking in 1 Thess. 5:12-13? Why would there be a specific need for Paul to command peace in this relationship? What does peace look like and what is your role in pursuing peace in this relationship?
- (c) Make a 2-columned list on your paper. On the left side write down *all* the ways that you either struggle or fail to pursue peace in your relationships. On the right side write down at least one specific, practical way in which you will pursue peace for each area in which you struggle/fail.

(d) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) – (c) above. Help them see that the believer is to pursue peace in all of their relationships. Make the 2-columned list on your white board and help your family to accurately evaluate any and all areas in which they struggle or fail to pursue peace in their relationships. They might need your nudging to clearly see themselves!

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Matt. 5:9; James 3:13-18.** Explain the difference between the 2 types of wisdom spoken of in James 3:13-18. What does wisdom from above have to do with peace? What will a person observing your actions see that will cause them to decide that you are operating from worldly wisdom? Heavenly wisdom?

(b) Explain what the “harvest of righteousness” is and its relationship to peace. In what activities should you be involved if you are to gain this harvest? Are you currently involved in these activities? If so, explain your harvest of righteousness, and if not, what changes will you make in order to be more involved in these activities?

(c) How does the blessing of being called a son of God relate to the characteristic of being a peacemaker? Who will be calling the peacemakers sons of God and why? In what ways is this a blessing to the peacemaker?

(d) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) – (c) above. Help them to see the strong connection between who we are in Christ and what our behavior should be as a result. Also help them to see how much is at stake in our relationships if we do not pursue peace, and the great, tangible benefits of our peacemaking.

**DATE: September 15, 2013**

**PASSAGE: Matthew 5:9**

***Blessed Are the Peacemakers***

*In Matthew 5:9 we find Jesus teaching the seventh beatitude.  
In it we learn about 2 more characteristics of the blessed one.*