



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What three words sum up 2023 for you?

What one word would you choose to
shape your 2024?

1. "Navigating conflict is a universal challenge." How have you typically navigated the challenge of conflict?
2. Pastor Nate explained that "peacekeeping maintains the status quo but does not produce health...(and) is accomplished through dominance or passivity." When have you seen "peacekeeping" affect the health of a relationship?
3. Read [Matthew 5:6, 9](#) and [James 3:17-18, 4:1-3, 6-7a](#).
In contrast to peacekeepers, Pastor Nate revealed that "Peacemakers desperately pursue God's wisdom and righteousness." How can self-reflection and pursuing God's grace change our ability to address conflict and become a peacemaker?
4. "Peacemakers remember that words carry the power of life and death..." ([Proverbs 18:21](#), [Ephesians 4:14](#), [James 1:19](#)) What would showing "the utmost care for speaking the truth in love" look like?
5. "Peacemakers recognize good health is their goal."
([James 4:11-12](#), [John 13:34-35](#)) Are there any unhealthy relationships that need your attention in this upcoming year and how will you make good health your goal?
6. Share your response to Pastor Nate's closing question: "Would the people closest to you describe you as a peacemaker?" How would you like that answer to change?

Day One: [Psalm 59](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 28](#)

Day Three: [1 Samuel 10](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 59](#)

Day Five: [Acts 3](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



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MESSAGE NOTES

"Making Peace"

Pastor Nate Sickler

Through Christmas, Jesus demonstrates that both conflict and peace are very real and peace is _____ ([John 1:5, 12, 16-17](#)).

Note [John 16:33](#); [Ephesians 2:14-16](#)

Navigating _____ is a universal challenge.

Someone who navigates conflict God's way is called a _____ ([James 3:18](#); [Matthew 5:9](#)).

Peacekeeping or Peacemaking?

"Peace is often limited to absence of war or the cessation of violence. Ceasefires and surrenders are important as preambles to peace. But peace in the Bible includes the finest of loving relationships between individuals, within families, communities, and nations. Peace also includes good health." (Kenneth Bailey)

- Peacekeeping maintains the _____ but does not produce health.
 - This is accomplished through dominance or _____.
- Peacemakers _____ God's wisdom and righteousness ([James 3:17-18](#), [Matthew 5:6](#)).
 - This pursuit requires thorough and consistent _____ ([James 4:1-3](#)).
 - This pursuit requires God's _____ at work in our lives ([James 4:6-7a](#)).

- Peacemakers _____ that words carry the power of life and death and cannot be returned once sent. So, they choose words with the utmost care for speaking the truth in love ([Proverbs 18:21](#); [Ephesians 4:14](#); [James 1:19](#)).
- Peacemakers _____ good health is their goal ([James 4:11-12](#); [John 13:34-35](#)).

How can I find Christmas peace?

- Are you _____ the status quo?
- Are you _____?
- Are you after _____?
- Would the people _____ describe you as a peacemaker?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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 - This pursuit requires God's grace at work in our lives ([James 4:6-7a](#)).

- Peacemakers remember that words carry the power of life and death and cannot be returned once sent. So, they choose words with the utmost care for speaking the truth in love ([Proverbs 18:21](#); [Ephesians 4:14](#); [James 1:19](#)).
- Peacemakers recognize good health is their goal ([James 4:11-12](#); [John 13:34-35](#)).

How can I find Christmas peace?

- Are you maintaining the status quo?
- Are you self-reflecting?
- Are you after good health?
- Would the people closest to you describe you as a peacemaker?

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