



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

### **October 18, 2026**

#### **Refresh**

Read Matthew 5:9 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

#### **Discuss**

Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). What does it mean to be a peacemaker rather than simply a peacekeeper? What are some ways Christians are tempted to avoid conflict or pretend there is peace rather than pursue genuine reconciliation?

Colossians 1:19-20 teaches that God made peace through the blood of Christ's cross. What does Christ's example teach us about the cost of making peace? Why should Christians be willing to endure discomfort, sacrifice, or even personal hurt in pursuing peace?

Matthew 6:33 calls believers to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. When we experience conflict, how can our desire to defend ourselves, prove we're right, or get our way become more important than glorifying God? What are some questions we can ask ourselves to evaluate our motives during conflict?

In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus instructs us to remove the log from our own eye before addressing the speck in someone else's. Why is it often easier to recognize another person's sin than our own? What does it look like practically to take responsibility for our own sinful attitudes, words, and actions amid a disagreement?

Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15-20 emphasize taking initiative to address broken relationships. Why are we often reluctant to approach someone with whom we are experiencing conflict? How can we distinguish between lovingly overlooking an offense and needing to address it directly?

Biblical reconciliation involves confession and forgiveness. What does genuine biblical confession look like, and how is it different than simply saying, "I'm sorry"? How can we extend forgiveness in a way that reflects God's forgiveness of us, even when restoring trust or rebuilding the relationship takes time?