

## ”Blessed are the peacemakers...”



### To the leader:

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the page.

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On Sunday, Dan Owolabi brought us right up to the finish line of our current series on the best sermon ever. The topic on Sunday was about focusing on being a peacemaker. Conflict is everywhere in our society today and many are really good at avoiding it. We talked about the difference between peacemaking and peacekeeping and that if we “wink” at conflict, we are permitting the conflict and even promoting it. After all, artificial peace isn’t true peace. Dan encouraged us to, first of all, commit to Christ and experience peace through a relationship with Him and also to be velvet bricks (tender on the outside and tough on the inside).

*“People who wink at wrong cause trouble, but a bold reproof promotes peace.” Proverbs 10:10*

- ◆ Describe a time where you “winked” at conflict instead of addressing it?
- ◆ In what way is avoiding conflict enabling and even promoting it?

### Let’s review the points from the message Sunday:

#### 1. The tunnel of conflict

- ◆ How would you describe artificial peace?
- ◆ In what way does the tunnel of conflict weed out the peacekeepers and the peacemakers?

#### 2. Commit to Christ

- ◆ How does a relationship with Christ provide an overall sense of peace in your life?
- ◆ In what way does a peacemaker’s relationship with Christ influence their ability to make peace with others?

#### 3. Become a velvet brick

- ◆ In the context of the illustration Dan used, in what way is being “velvety” and “bricky” bad by themselves?
- ◆ Can you describe a time in your life that either you were a velvet brick or someone was one to you?

### Now what?

- ◆ What conflict in your life have you been avoiding?
- ◆ What is your plan to address this conflict as soon as possible?
- ◆ What impact would addressing and resolving this conflict have in your life and the life of others?

### Three Essential Questions

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*