CONNECTIONS

Sermonnotes - March 5, 2017

Keyverse

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

Courageous & Blessed

We are never more like our Father in Heaven than when we work for peace in the messiness of life here and now.

1. How are you doing on memorizing the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)? You probably know them better than you think! Take a few minutes with your group—either all together or in pairs—to say as many as you can from memory.

2. Think of a conflict that's affecting you right now—between you and someone else or between other people you care about. What's happening? How have you tried to address it so far?

3. By personality and upbringing, do you tend to be a *peace-faker*, *peace-breaker*, or *peace-maker* when it comes to your own or others' conflict? Give an example. How does Jesus' call for you to be a *peacemaker* challenge your typical approach to handling conflicts?

4. Pastor Ken said that Jesus explains and illustrates the Beatitudes in the rest of His sermon (Matthew 5-7). Read the Scriptures below and note how Jesus sheds light on what it means to be a peacemaker. Which passage especially strikes you?
   - Matthew 5:23-26—
   - Matthew 5:43-46—
   - Matthew 6:12-15—
   - Matthew 7:1-5—

5. Think again about the conflict that's affecting you right now. What could you say or do this week to *pursue peace* in this situation? How can others in your group pray for you about this?