

A Better Way to the Good Life
Week 3: Peacemakers and the Persecuted
Matthew 5:9-12

1. What “fires of conflict” do you find yourself in today? How have you responded so far? Has your response been more in line with the “peacemaking” values of God’s kingdom or self-promotion values of the world?
2. What does Jesus teach about the values of his kingdom this week? What are the blessings, or promises, that he offers with each? Think about each of the following beatitudes:
 - Peacemakers
 - Persecuted
3. Consider the following bottom-line statement from the sermon: “When you bring the gospel of peace into the fire, you please the One who went into the fire for you. “How would you apply this challenge to your life this week?
4. Read **Romans 5:1-5**, **Ephesians 6:14-15**, and **Isaiah 52:4-7**. How do these verses deepen our understanding of peace?
5. Read **1 Peter 3:8-16**. What does Peter teach about our posture in both in making peace and enduring persecution?
6. What is your plan for bringing peace into the fire of your current conflict? Consider each of the following action steps:
 - Prayer—God, help my words and actions to bring your peace into the conflict
 - Pride—Where am I presuming, pretending, or pushing?
 - People—Who do I need help from this week? Who can I help?