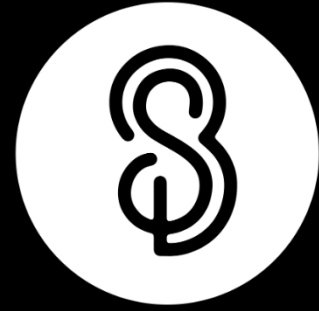


STONEBRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Note to the Host: *Thanks for leading your group, creating community, and caring for your people! Remember, this is your group, and you have the freedom to navigate the conversation that best fits your group's dynamic. People come first!*

ICEBREAKER:

Describe "peace" without using forms of the words "war," "fight," "harmony," or "order."

TALK IT OVER:

These questions are based off the sermon that took place on Sunday. Feel free to revisit any of the scripture that was discussed in the message. Answer as many questions as your time allows; don't feel pressed to get through them all!

1. Read Matthew 24:6–8. Mark said there's been 107 wars since the American Revolution, a little less than one war every two years. How bad do you think things have to get before Christ returns? Do you think world peace is possible in today's environment?
2. Read Luke 12:51, then Matthew 21:12–17. Even though Jesus is the Prince of Peace and the angels proclaimed peace on earth at his birth, Jesus still "mixed it up" a bit. How would you react if someone "squatted" in your family's home and turned into "a den of robbers"? Was Jesus justified in this action?
3. The last two of the 10 commandments are about not coveting the family members and possessions your neighbor has. Read James 4:1–3. Is coveting just "stinkin' thinkin'"? What heart

motives does James reveal in these verses? Read the next verse, verse 4. What happens to our relationship with God when we love the world more than we ought?

4. Read Matthew 5:9. By itself, that might seem like a daunting task, but Jesus isn't talking about world peace. He's talking about where you're at. In what ways have you been a peacemaker?
5. Now read the whole Beatitudes section, Matthew 5:1–12. Were the Beatles right when they sang, "All you need is love"? Would you agree or disagree that the Beatitudes answer a challenge from God: "tell me you love me without saying you love me"? Read Matthew 5:13–16. How can you be a peacemaker to those around you?
6. Read Acts 9:23–31. Almost immediately after Paul's conversion from a Jewish pharisee to a Christian apostle, he faced death threats from the Jews. Was sending Paul away a strategic retreat for Paul or necessary for survival for the believers in and around Jerusalem? How can we help others get out of bad situations?
7. Read Romans 12:14–21. What are some practical steps Paul says we can make to live at peace with one another? Read Romans 14:13 and verses 16–19. What is our role in the life of the church or your fellowship group to be a peacemaker? Might there be times we have to say or do something difficult or uncomfortable to bring about peace?
8. Read Acts 2:1–4. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to be peacemakers? For further study, you can look at John 14:15–30, Romans 12, or 1 Corinthians 12 to dive deeper into the Holy Spirit's role in the lives of Christ-followers.

PRAYER:

Please don't stress about the time of prayer, pray however your group feels comfortable. This can either be one person pray, or you can go in a circle and have each person pray a few sentences. Be sure to change it up so your prayer time stays fresh in your group!

- Make sure that everyone has a chance to share!
- Encourage all praise reports! Celebrate what God has done!

- Have someone record and distribute the requests to your group, to pray over throughout the week.

Week #4, God, We Need to Talk, March 24, 2024