

Unit 2: Be-Attitudes

Lesson 2.7: Blessed are the Peacemakers

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 5:9 and 1 Samuel 25

Activities:

**Choose based on time available. Instructions and supplies listed below.*

Activity 1: Peacemaker Scenarios

Activity 2: Peacemaker Pledge Card

Words of the week:

խաղաղարար - kha-gha-ghar-ar - peacemaker

խաղաղութիւն - kha-gha-ghoo-tyoon - peace

Աստուծոյ որդիք - As-doo-dzo vor-teek - sons of God

Objective:

Students will learn that peacemakers help stop fighting and bring people together with love and kindness. They will understand that Jesus calls us to bring peace instead of anger or division.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Students will learn that peacemaking means helping others get along and choosing calm instead of conflict.

Understanding: Students will understand that God is a God of peace and wants His children to spread peace.

Application: Students will practice peacemaking by using kind words, calming situations, and helping solve problems peacefully.

Values: Peace, patience, kindness, forgiveness, love

Memory Verse:

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.”

- Matthew 5:9

Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Lesson Body: Blessed are the Peacemakers

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Jesus teaches us that peacemakers are special in God’s eyes. Peacemakers do not start fights or make problems bigger. Instead, they help bring calm, kindness, and understanding to difficult situations. When we bring peace, we show others what God’s love looks like. We become more like Jesus, who is called the Prince of Peace.

What Does It Mean to Be a Peacemaker?

Being a peacemaker means helping people get along, even when it is hard. It means using calm words when others are angry. It means trying to fix problems instead of causing more trouble. A peacemaker does not choose sides just to win an argument. A peacemaker chooses love, patience, and fairness, even when it costs something. Peacemakers are brave. It takes courage to step into a conflict and try to help. Peacemakers are also humble. They care more about making things right than about being right. When you help stop a fight, speak kindly when others gossip, or apologize first to end an argument, you are being a peacemaker.

Being a peacemaker does not mean avoiding all conflict or pretending problems do not exist. Sometimes peacemakers must speak up about what is wrong. But they do it with respect, wisdom, and a genuine desire to heal the situation, not to hurt people or win.

Bible Story: Abigail Brings Peace

Long ago in Israel, there was a woman named Abigail who was known for being wise and kind. She thought carefully before she spoke and tried to do what was right in every situation. Her husband, Nabal, was very different. He was rude, selfish, and quick to anger. His name actually meant “fool,” and he often lived up to it.

During this time, David, who would one day become king, was on the run from King Saul. David and his men had been traveling through the wilderness near where Nabal’s shepherds worked. David’s men protected Nabal’s workers and sheep from thieves and wild animals. They were kind and helpful, never taking anything that did not belong to them.

When it was sheep-shearing time, a season of celebration and feasting, David sent messengers to Nabal. They politely greeted him and reminded him of the protection David’s men had provided. They respectfully asked if Nabal could share some food and supplies with them.

But Nabal answered with angry and insulting words. “Who is this David?” he said mockingly. “Why should I give my food to men I don’t even know?” He refused to help and spoke harshly about David, showing no gratitude for the protection his workers had received.

When David heard about Nabal’s rude response, he became furious. His men had helped Nabal’s workers, and now Nabal insulted them in return. David felt deeply disrespected. He gathered 400 of his men, strapped on their swords, and set out toward Nabal’s household. He planned to attack and destroy everything Nabal owned. A terrible conflict was about to happen, and many innocent people could be hurt.

One of Nabal’s servants saw the danger coming. He ran to Abigail and told her everything that had happened. He explained how David’s men had protected them and how Nabal had foolishly insulted David. “Disaster is hanging over our whole household,” he said, “and our master is too mean to listen to reason.”

When Abigail learned what had happened, she did not panic or ignore the problem. She did not blame others or make excuses. Instead, she acted quickly and wisely. She immediately gathered a generous amount of food: 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already prepared for cooking, grain, raisins, and fig cakes. She loaded everything onto donkeys and set out to meet David before the fighting could begin.

Abigail did not tell Nabal what she was doing. She knew he would not listen and would probably try to stop her. Sometimes peacemakers must act boldly, even when others do not understand or support them.

When Abigail saw David approaching with his armed men, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low to the ground in respect. She spoke with both humility and courage. “My lord, please listen to me,” she said. “Let the blame for this fall on me alone. My husband Nabal is a fool, just as his name means. But I, your servant, did not see the men you sent.”



Then Abigail appealed to David's better nature. She reminded him that God had chosen him and had great plans for his future. She gently warned him that if he attacked now in anger, he would regret it later. "When the Lord has done all the good things He promised you and has made you leader over Israel," she said, "you will not have on your conscience the guilt of needless bloodshed or of taking revenge."

David listened carefully to Abigail's wise words. His anger began to cool. He realized that she had saved him from making a terrible mistake. "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me," David said. "May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from shedding blood this day."

David accepted the food Abigail brought and sent her home in peace. Because one person chose to be a peacemaker, fighting was avoided and many lives were saved. God used Abigail's calm words, brave actions, and humble heart to bring peace where there could have been violence and tragedy.

This story teaches us several important lessons. Peacemakers do not ignore problems or hope they will go away on their own. They face problems with courage and wisdom. Peacemakers speak the truth, but they do it with kindness and respect. They think about the future and help others see beyond their immediate anger. Most importantly, peacemakers trust God to work through them to bring healing and hope.

Key Teaching Point

Peacemakers help stop anger and bring God's peace into difficult situations. They do not wait for others to fix problems. They step forward with courage, wisdom, and love, trusting God to use them to heal broken relationships and prevent harm.

Words of the Week:

խաղաղարար - **kha-gha-ghar-ar - peacemaker**

խաղաղութիւն - **kha-gha-ghoo-tyoon - peace**

Աստուծոյ որդիք

As-doo-dzo vor-teek - sons of God

Memory Verse:

**"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God."**

- Matthew 5:9

Activity 1: Peacemaker Scenarios

What You Need: Scenario cards (printed or written on index cards ahead of time), small groups of 3 to 4 students.

What to Do:

1. Divide students into small groups.
2. Give each group a scenario card describing a conflict situation.
3. Ask groups to discuss: *What would a peacemaker do in this situation? What would they say? How would they act?*
4. Have each group share their scenario and solution with the class.

Sample Scenarios:

- Two friends are arguing about whose turn it is to choose the game at recess. They are getting louder and angrier.
- You hear some classmates gossiping about another student and saying mean things behind their back.
- Your brother or sister accidentally broke your favorite toy, and now you are both upset and not talking to each other.
- Two teammates on your sports team are blaming each other for losing the game yesterday.

Why We Do This: This activity helps students practice thinking like peacemakers and prepares them to respond wisely when real conflicts happen.

Activity 2: Peacemaker Pledge Card

What You Need: Index cards or card stock, markers or colored pencils, stickers (optional).

What to Do:

1. Give each student a card.
2. Have them write at the top: "I Will Be a Peacemaker"
3. Ask students to write one specific way they will practice being a peacemaker this week. For example: "I will use calm words when I am frustrated," or "I will help my friends solve disagreements without fighting."
4. Have them decorate their cards with colors and designs.
5. At the bottom, they can write Matthew 5:9 or "Blessed are the peacemakers."
6. Encourage them to keep the card somewhere visible at home (on their desk, mirror, or bedside table) as a reminder.

Why We Do This: Writing down a specific commitment helps students move from learning about peacemaking to actually practicing it in their daily lives.

Review

Memory Verse Review:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Words of the Week Review:

խաղաղարար - kha-gha-ghar-ar - peacemaker

խաղաղութիւն - kha-gha-ghoo-tyoon - peace

Աստուծոյ որդիք - As-doo-dzo vor-teek - sons of God

Lesson Review Questions:

1. Why was David so angry with Nabal? (*David and his men had protected Nabal’s workers and sheep, but Nabal responded with insults and ingratitude instead of kindness*)
2. What did Abigail do when she heard about the conflict? (*She acted quickly and wisely. She gathered food, went to meet David, spoke respectfully to him, and reminded him of God’s plans for his future*)
3. How did Abigail show both courage and wisdom? (*She had the courage to face an angry army and take responsibility for her husband’s foolishness. She showed wisdom by speaking truth with respect and helping David see beyond his anger to the consequences of his actions*)
4. What does Jesus mean when He says peacemakers will be called “sons of God”? (*When we make peace, we act like God’s children and reflect His character. God is a God of peace, and when we bring peace, we show we belong to Him*)
5. Can you think of a time when you could have been a peacemaker but were not? *What could you do differently next time?* (*Allow students to share and discuss. Encourage honest reflection and practical next steps*)
6. What is one way you can be a peacemaker this week at school, at home, or with your friends? (*Help students identify specific, practical opportunities to practice peacemaking in their own lives*)

Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Being a peacemaker means choosing peace in real situations. When friends argue, you can help calm them down. When someone makes you angry, you can choose gentle words instead of yelling. When there is a problem, you can try to fix it instead of making it worse. This week, students will look for one moment where they can help bring peace instead of conflict and remember that peacemakers are doing God’s work.

* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.