

SESSION 9 HANDOUT

KEY SCRIPTURES (NIV):

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Mark 5:1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet Him.³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain.⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of Him.⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!"⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with Him.¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."²⁰ So the man went away and

began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Romans 14:13-19

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. ¹⁴ I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. ¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen

rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

DISCOVER MORE

Refer to the key Scriptures provided as you consider the questions below:

Memorize and meditate on Matthew 5:9: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* What does this verse mean to you and the way you “do life”?

If a group of us were to live in this way of peace in this institution, what difference do you think it would make? What would be different?

Think about your mission as a peacemaker. Like the man who lived among the tombs before he met Jesus, your life may have also been transformed by the love and forgiveness of God. This transformation is described as “a new creation” in Jesus

Christ. God has brought you into peace; you are reconciled to Him, and you are being led into peace with others as His ambassador. What might this look like in your life?

Re-read James 3:13-18 and then write it out in your own words. What stands out to you with these verses?

What does it mean to you to be “blessed”? What are the implications of being a “child of God”?
