



About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 **Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 **Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 **Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 **Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 **Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 **Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/3 **Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/10 **Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Reconciliation (God makes peace through us)

One of the key aspects of love is reconciliation and forgiveness. It is one of the main actions that flows out of love, and one of the greatest benefits Christians rejoice in from God. Forgiving those who offend us is extremely challenging though essential, as it demonstrates that we've been reconciled and forgiven by God.

If we're following the course of the gospel *it will* lead us and motivate us on toward reconciliation and forgiveness of others, even though it may be difficult.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

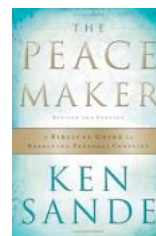
Application: Answer the below questions:

- What does it look like for us to, forgive others as God has forgiven us?
- For the below questions, privately write your answers on a piece of paper or make a mental note of them. Think of someone in your life whom you may need to forgive (or, forgive on a deeper level). Some of the scenarios or feelings that this person may bring to mind are: emotional distance, a feeling of being uncomfortable, conflict, hostility, anger, hurt, the rehearsing of a painful scenario in your mind related to that person, irritation, fear, gossip or a critical attitude. What irritates you about that person? What issues of injustice are related to the scenario? In other words, how have you been wronged or hurt?
- Describe your own debt of offense/sin before God. In what ways have your offenses toward God surpassed someone else's offenses toward you? How has God forgiven you?
- Read Matthew 18:21-35 out loud as a group and discuss what it means.

Prayer

- If there are those who are struggling to forgive then gather around them, lay hands on them and pray that God would help them. We are all in this together. None of us have this figured out perfectly, therefore we need God's help...So pray for it.

Recommended Resources



The Peace Maker is an excellent resource for understanding and living out the process/ ministry of reconciliation and forgiveness by applying the gospel in our lives.

Also a another excellent resource entitled: "**Peace-breakers, Peace-fakers, and Peacemakers**" can be read online here: <http://bit.ly/14hjBxO>

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.