



ALL TOGETHER

Sunday 30 August 2020

Welcome to All Together.

All Together is where everyone is included and involved – all of us together – learning and exploring what it really means to be a follower of Jesus.

Our Theme for this week is –
PEACEMAKING

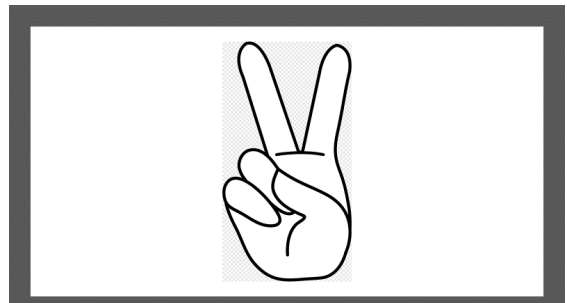
Today we are learning that Jesus wants those of us who are his disciples, to work hard at producing peace; to work hard at removing hurt and conflict, and at restoring harmony and calm in our relationships.

Jesus has worked to produce peace between God and us, and now he wants us to produce peace between us and those around us and in our lives.

To get you thinking about peace, I have a quiz for you.

This week I have been learning about the different signs for Peace.

I am going to put up a sign or symbol of peace, and test what you know about the sign, and why it is a sign for peace.



LET'S LEARN

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

This prayer is used all around the world. And it comes with hand signs.

I need two volunteers.


Say the prayer and show the hand actions, first with the volunteers.

Then ask everyone stand and say the prayer with the hand actions.

PRAYER FOR PEACE
 Our Father in heaven, lead us
 From Death to LIFE
 From Falsehood to TRUTH
 From Despair to HOPE
 From Fear to TRUST
 From Hate to LOVE
 From War to PEACE
 Let Peace fill Our Hearts
 And Our World, AMEN

<i>Our Father in Heaven</i>	
<i>Lead us from Death to LIFE</i>	Two hands crossed over chest – Two Hands raised to heaven
<i>From Falsehood to TRUTH</i>	One hand covering the side of the mouth, - Two hands around the mouth for speaking out loud
<i>From Despair to HOPE</i>	One hand on the forehead in despair – Then the same hand over the eyes for looking out and forward
<i>From Fear to TRUST</i>	Two hands clenched together by the side of mouth – Two hands in front of the chest cupped and open with palms upwards
<i>From Hate to LOVE</i>	One hand raised as a fist - Two hands in shape of heart
<i>From War to PEACE</i>	One hand shaped like a gun - Two hands linked by the thumbs, palms inward, creating a dove
<i>Let PEACE fill our HEARTS</i>	The two hands still as the dove of peace near the heart
<i>And our WORLD</i>	Hands as the dove of peace making a small circle away from the heart
<i>AMEN</i>	

IN SMALL GROUPS LET'S TALK TOGETHER



What do you usually do when someone important to you is acting very coldly or unkindly towards you?

- Do you tell them how you feel and ask them about their behaviour? Why?
- Or
- Do you avoid talking about it and hope that they will change? Why?

IN SMALL GROUPS LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

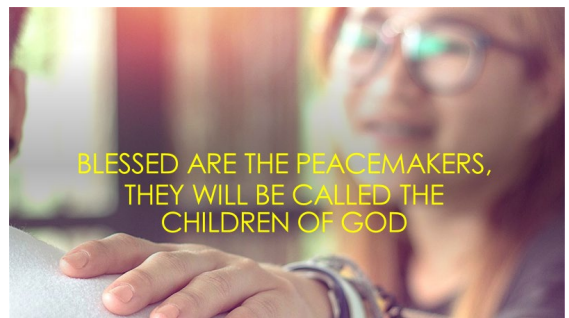


PRAY for God to help you to

- Build a better relationship with someone
- OR
- Repair a relationship that is in bad shape or is broken.

You can pray out loud, but don't mention anyone's name, or pray silently, or listen to others pray.

BIBLE TALK



Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers . . ."

What did Jesus mean when he said, "Blessed"?

School Graduation Ceremonies have been banned by the NSW government to try and stop the spread of the Coronavirus?

What happens at a Graduation Ceremony?

Graduation ceremonies shows what our school community values and honours.

Jesus is telling us what God's community must value and honour, because these are the qualities

that God publicly honours and congratulates, that he admires and approves?

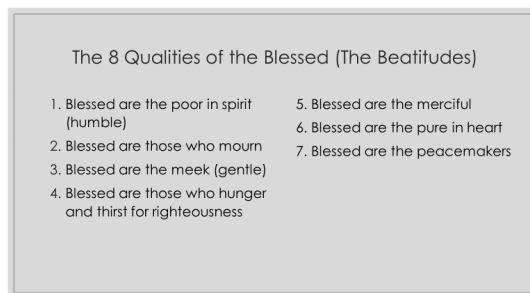
In his sermon, Jesus lists 8 qualities or behaviours that God admires and approves.

Can I have someone volunteer to write these neatly on our whiteboard?

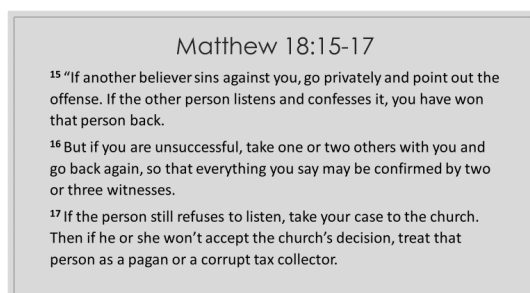
What are the 8 qualities that God admires and awards?

1. **Blessed are the poor in spirit** – being humble because you realise you are not God and you are not the centre of the universe but just one very needy creature among billions of need creatures
2. **Blessed are those who mourn** – feeling deeply for others and ourselves, the pain of living in a broken world, and having to struggle with evil around us and in us
3. **Blessed are the meek** – the gentleness that comes from placing your trust in the power of God rather than your own power, as you do what is good and right in the face of what is bad and wrong
4. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness** – this is a longing for and making it your mission to work with Jesus in restoring the kingdom of God in your world, by living with others according to God's values and practicing Jesus' instructions and directions
5. **Blessed are the merciful** - Jesus' disciples must be very generous with forgiveness, we must be giving out lots of forgiveness, ready and willing to forgive as much as we can and as often as we can, because that's what we want from God
6. **Blessed are the pure in heart** - this is having a heart towards God and others that is clean, that is, it is not a heart that is polluted with good and bad motives, but is genuine and sincere towards God and people. It is the opposite of being a manipulator or being deceptive and untrustworthy
7. **Blessed are the peacemakers** - this about being committed to removing hurt and conflict and restoring harmony and calm in

relationships. To peacemakers, healthy and happy relationships matter.



Let's look at what Jesus teaches elsewhere that peacemakers care about repairing relationships, removing hurt and conflict and restoring harmony and calm - **Matthew 18:15-20**



What this tells us is that the church family values relationships a lot because we don't want to just look like a good and happy family. We want to be a good and happy family.

The person being punished here is a person who has demonstrated clearly to the church family that he or she doesn't care about their relationship with others, whether they injure or damage another person doesn't matter to them.

Peacemaking means that we are all sincere about having relationships that are strong and healthy, and that we are actually loving God and loving one another not just pretending to or covering up a lot of hurt, hatred and conflict.

8. **Blessed are the persecuted because of righteousness and because of Jesus** –

The 8 Qualities of the Blessed (The Beatitudes)

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| 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble) | 5. Blessed are the merciful |
| 2. Blessed are those who mourn | 6. Blessed are the pure in heart |
| 3. Blessed are the meek (gentle) | 7. Blessed are the peacemakers |
| 4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness | 8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because of following Jesus |

Sometimes peacemaking is very difficult, and it can even get you in trouble, or stir up more hurt and conflict with others who want power and control not healthy friendships.

But cheer up.



God is proud of peacemakers, and he is so proud of them that he tells everyone – these are my children.

LEARNING ZONES



1. Conversation & Prayer
2. Craft
3. Creative

FEEDBACK - ALL TOGETHER



THE BLESSING

BENEDICTION – NUMBERS 6:24-26

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
MAY THE LORD'S FACE SHINE ON YOU AND
MAY HE BE GRACIOUS TO YOU
MAY THE LORD LOOK UPON YOU WITH FAVOUR AND
GIVE YOU PEACE