

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Awesome God, Awesome God, Bamblela, I Give You Praise Lord, My Tribute

## WELCOME

**Peacemaker.** Do you consider yourself a peacemaker? Briefly share how you exemplify it.

## WORD

### MATTHEW 5:9

*<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

We all want peace. Every nation on Earth aims for peace. In fact, the United Nations was established with the goal of world peace. But ever since it was formed, there was never a year without a war. Peace is definitely elusive. We need not look too far. Right at home, families are breaking apart, children are suing parents or each other, and divorce is rampant. Suicide and depression are on the rise because people have no peace inside. The truth is, peace should begin with every person. If we do not have peace, how can we be at peace with others?

The wicked have no peace, because they do not have God (**Isaiah 57:20**). We cannot have peace apart from the Prince of Peace (**Romans 16:20; Isaiah 9:6; John 14:7**). The truth is, we were all at war with God until we surrender our life to God and be justified by faith. Only then will we have peace *with* God through Jesus (**Romans 5:1**). To have the peace *of* God, we first need to have peace with Him. But peace will not come to you without surrendering yourself to Him.

The Bible uses two words for peace — the Hebrew word 'shalom' and the Greek word 'eirene.' Both words express the idea of peace that comes from God. Not just the absence of war, God's peace is experiencing God's very best being in a state of security and freedom from anxiety.

### HAPPY ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

The seventh Beatitude tells us that happy are the peacemakers, not the troublemakers. Troublemakers gossip, they cause division, add fuel to the fire, instigate disagreements and want people to take sides (**Proverbs 26:20–21**). The Bible speaks against them. In fact, if we cause dissension we are as guilty as the sexually immoral and the likes; troublemaking is a

serious sin (**Galatians 5:19–21**) so, we cannot be neutral about it (**Proverbs 20:19; Romans 16:17**).

Being a peacemaker, however, forms part of the marks of a true follower of Christ. As peacemakers, we should not cause division. Instead, we should love one another, which is an evidence that we are disciples of Jesus (**John 13:35**). By our unity, the world will know Jesus (**John 17:23**).

But what are the characteristics of peacemakers?

#### **A peacemaker takes initiative (Matthew 5:23–24)**

In the days of Jesus, it will take days to go to the temple in Jerusalem if you are from Galilee or Nazareth. But if at the altar, you remember that a family member has something against you, Jesus says you should go back to be reconciled first before giving your offering in the temple.

If we are the ones hurt, our act of peacemaking is to talk to the person in private (**Matthew 18:15–17**), not in public, not in Facebook or with other people who are not part of the problem nor part of the solution. If the other person refuses to listen, we elevate it to another level to resolve the issue. Some people may refuse to be at peace with us but if possible, let us be at peace with everyone (**Romans 12:18–19**).

Peacemakers are not passive or indifferent, but they take the Word of God seriously to fix the problem.

#### **A peacemaker speaks the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)**

Love must be balanced with truth. It is not easy to tell someone he is wrong, but if we really love him, we will tell him (**Proverbs 27:5,6**). Speaking the truth is painful because people do not want to be corrected.

## WORD (cont'd)

But we should not run away from the problem and instead seek to speak the truth in love.

**A peacemaker asks for forgiveness and forgives others (Colossians 3:13).**

Without forgiveness, it is hard to restore relationships. People who cannot forgive have a problem. They probably do not know Jesus yet because until one has experienced the forgiveness and grace of God, it will be hard to forgive others and to ask for forgiveness.

**A peacemaker reconciles people to God and one another (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).**

God loves us, He has forgiven us through Jesus and reconciled us to Himself. Once we are reconciled with Him, He gives us the ministry of reconciliation. Once

we experience reconciliation with God, we also want others to be reconciled with Him and to one another as we become ambassadors of Christ.

### THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD

As peacemakers we are not only ambassadors, we are called sons of God. The Bible uses the word “son” as an adjective, for example, Barnabas is the son of encouragement (**Acts 4:36**), James and John are sons of thunder (**Mark 3:16–17**). To be called the “sons of God” comes with the highest honor of representing what God is like—a peacemaking God.

As peacemakers, we have the highest title representing God and His family. When people look at us, do they see God in us? To be true followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. **Peace Blessing.** What is the promise and blessing to peacemakers according to **Matthew 5:9**?
2. **Peace Response.** How should you respond to people who refuse your initiative to make peace with them?
3. **Peace be with You.** Identify the people you need to make peace with. Which characteristics of a peacemaker will you put into action starting this week?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.  
– Matthew 5:9*

Identify people who you see the need to be at peace with God.

Let the peace of God manifest first in your life so that this person will clearly see Jesus alive in you. Then seize the God-given opportunity to share the peace of God with this person and help reconcile him/her to Jesus.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends