

BEATITUDES

LEADER'S NOTES: LESSON SEVEN

Matthew 5:9 (Peacemakers)

1. If you feel comfortable, briefly share about a season in your life when you endured heavy conflict.

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to week 7 of our Beatitudes Life Group Video Series! You, again, have six questions coming up based on Pastor Victor's video lesson this week! Remember that these leader notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

Question number one is a great opportunity for your whole group to share. It may help if you, as the leader, are transparent and willing to share. We've all had seasons of life that were chaotic or seemed to be under heavy turmoil and conflict. Encourage your group members as some may share these times with each other. Everyone will have differing answers. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes.

2. What lesson(s) did God teach you during that season? What has changed in your life because of the lesson(s) you learned?

Again, this is a great opportunity for everyone to share. Some may not have seen a lesson in their season of conflict. Or may be unwilling to share that part of the lesson they learned was that the conflict was their fault and this is embarrassing. Whatever the case may be, continue to be encouraging of each of your group members as they share. And as always, not snap judgments or quick fixes.

3. Take a couple of minutes and have everyone read Genesis 27:1–45 quietly. As a group, list the various confrontations in this passage. What are some things that come to mind when you read a story like this?

This passage is true drama and has probably been used in various forms for mid-day soap operas and movies plots!

Some of the various confrontations in this passage include:

Having a favorite child

Eaves dropping on a conversation you are not intended to hear

Constructed deceit of a spouse

Willful deception of a parent

Theft from a brother

Blindness aside, having the ignorance of not knowing one son from the other even with a disguise (Kind of shows the lack of relationship Isaac had with both of his sons ... just saying).

This list will at least get you started. Encourage a good discussion with your group about the family dynamics and what could have been done better early on in the growth of the family.

4. In the Genesis passage, we read the confrontation between brothers for a blessing. How many more types of “confrontations” can there be?

There can be hundreds of confrontations between siblings or other various sets of two or more people. Money and stuff are often a cause of conflict. A “love triangle” is another cause. Jealousy/Covet. Loneliness. Fear. Skewed sense of fairness. I don’t get what I want...

5. Have someone read James 4: 1–3. Count how many times James uses the words “you” and “your.” What do you think James is trying to tell us about how conflict is started? Why do some people refuse to pursue peace?

I got 17 in the NIV that I am reading. ;) What number did you come up with in your preferred translation?

To have 17 uses of the word “you/your” in a matter of three verses, totaling six sentences (again, NIV ... your translation may be slightly different, but you get the idea) seems to be driving home the point that we are selfish people. We look within, and we are first and foremost, looking out for number one ... “me.” This also seems to be done without care or concern of others in the process. That would be very unlike Jesus and his teachings. Those that call ourselves Christians or Jesus Followers, we need to recognize where we fall short in this teaching and begin to look at why our perspective is so “me centered” and does not lift up others first, as Jesus teaches his followers to do.

Some people refuse to take responsibility for their actions or even consider that they are ever in the wrong ... even when presented with evidence they will not concede. There seems to be some innate sense that they are right, and everyone else is wrong. With that, they are driven to cause chaos for others.

6. During the video lesson, Victor says that we should interpret “Blessed are the peacemakers” as a call to action to carry and live out peace. With Romans 12:18 and Victor’s challenge in mind, is there someone you need to reconcile with? In what ways could you step into the role of peacemaker this week/month?

Romans 12:18 reads, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

These are very introspective questions and may take some time to think through for some of your group members. If these questions are coming near the end of your time together, encourage your group to take them home and really think about it. Some may feel it helpful to write out a journal entry with these questions in mind.

Take a few minutes to:

- **Write down one personal takeaway from this lesson.**
- **Now, write about how this takeaway could be applied to your life.**
- **Finally, if you’re comfortable doing so, share your takeaway and life application with the group.**

If you have a chance to give the group time to do this exercise, it would be good ... but don’t feel pressure to rush through the other questions (if you’re having healthy discussion) to do this exercise. If you run out of time but still want to take part in this exercise one idea is for group members to do this on their own time during the week and share what they’ve written with other group members via email or text.