



**January 26, 2020**

**Title:** *Peace Be With You...*

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-35

### **Overview**

Some of Jesus' first recorded teachings spoke about peace (Matt.5:9) and some of his last words to his followers were also about peace (John 14:27). For many, the idea of peace conjures thoughts of some idyllic state of tranquility. Whereas in the scriptures, peace (or "shalom" in Hebrew), is much more than the absence of conflict. Peacemaking is about the act of creating justice and righteousness in the world.

### **Theme**

How can we become peacemakers and those who practice love in the ways of Jesus?

**Opening Question:** *What from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s actions and message stand out to you?*

### **Some questions for discussion:**

1. Take a look at Matthew 10:25-35. The Samaritans were despised by the Jews, yet this Samaritan truly cared for the Jewish man who had been robbed and beaten.
  - In what ways are empathy and compassion – as exhibited by the Samaritan – the start of peacemaking?
  - How would seeing every person as a beloved son or daughter of God move us toward peace making?
  - What place does curiosity play in becoming a peacemaker? What tends to happen as we get close to others and pursue other's stories?
  - What price do you think the Samaritan paid for helping the man who was in need: finances, time, reputation, standing in the community, etc.?
  - How was the response of the Samaritan a subversive act?
  - How do you think these words contribute to what it means to be a peacemaker?
    - See
    - Immerse
    - Contend

2. Read Matthew 19:28-30. Jesus is talking about a future reality that is the renewal of all things. Live in the now but the not yet. Acknowledging the reality of now, but pointing to a time when all things will become new, renewed, and restored. How might the promise of this future give you hope and encouragement as you pursue peace making?

3. Discuss this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King:

*Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of Justice...* “Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of Justice...

*...And even if we didn't have this tension, we still wouldn't have positive peace. Yes it is true that if we accept this peace, this exploitation, and injustice, there will be peace. But it would be an obnoxious peace. It would be a peace that boiled down to stagnant complacency, a deadening passivity and if peace means this? I don't want peace.” (Martin Luther King Jr., Sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL, March 18, 1956)*

4. What do you think is the difference between being a peace keeper vs. peacemaker?

5. What might be a specific next step for you to grow in becoming a peacemaker at home, in your neighborhood, city, or world? (You may want to consult the Project Renew web site for additional ideas - <http://projectrenew.org/>)

6. Extra discussion if needed: Use these three core questions – especially the last one – and discuss in light of the biblical passage and today’s discussion:

- **What can I learn about God?**

What does he care about? What does he not care about? What makes him glad and joyful and what makes him sad? What does he think of you and me? What are some off-kilter thoughts or beliefs I may have about God and his ways?

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- **What does it mean to live fully as a human the way God created me?**

If I were living fully, what might I care about more or care about less? What would be on my mind? What would be on my heart? What does this teach me about me – how I tend to respond and react? What does this teach me about me - and who I am created to be?

- **So what? What’s the point?** If these things do provide insight about life, then how might I live differently today? This week? What new thoughts do I have or what adjustments do I want to make? As a person? As a son or daughter? As a

friend? As a student? As an employee? As a boss? As a mom, dad, wife, uncle,  
aunt, husband, grandparent?