



## Blessed are the Peacemakers

**Date:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

**Speaker:** Adam Pipe

**Key Verses:** Matthew 5:9

### Talk Summary:

- The Biblical concept of peace 'Shalom' is more expansive than the absence of conflict. Shalom is about comprehensive well-being and flourishing at every level of life.
- Shalom is God's vision for how he wants creation to function. The Kingdom of God is one of shalom. In Genesis we see that God created a world of Shalom but the Shalom of creation was shattered by the sin of Adam & Eve. Shalom was shattered in terms of humanity's relationship with God, their relationship with themselves, their relationship with one another and their relationship with creation. The story of the Bible is God's plan to restore shalom to his creation.
- We believe that ultimately peace is a person. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection he achieved peace between God and humanity. We stand on the peace Jesus achieved (Ephesians 6:15). Peace is the legacy of Jesus (John 14:26-27) which we inherit through the Holy Spirit.
- Peacemaking is an active role not passive. We take part in God's Shalom project now. Jeremiah 29: we work for the peace of our city. This is especially challenging against the backdrop of current events sparked by the killing of George Floyd.
- Peacemaking is rooted in prayer. Prayer opens a channel inside us to participate in God's love for the other person.
- One of our primary roles as peacemakers is to introduce people to Jesus the prince of peace (Is 52:7; Rom 10:15).
- Peacemaking is most often part of our ordinary daily Christian life. James 3:18 invites us to sow seeds of peace.
- Peacemakers will be called children of God. When we work for peace we embrace our kingdom identity.

## Worship

- Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?
  - More ideas at [bvc.so/sgworship](https://bvc.so/sgworship) or [bvc.so/sgprayer](https://bvc.so/sgprayer)

## Word

- What would our lives look like if we lived in God's shalom? How would this transform our relationships, our workplace, our city and our world?
- In what ways is God calling us to be peacemakers to our city today? To our community? To our neighbourhoods?
- In what areas of your life and relationships do you need more peace?
- What's the connection between prayer and peace-making?

## Witness

- What are some small steps you could take this week in your family, workplace, relationships and church community to sow some seeds of peace?

## Prophetic words that were shared on Sunday:

You may want to share these with your group and see if any of them resonate with anyone. Then take time to pray for each other.

- There was a word of knowledge that someone has a noise that recently start in their right ear this week. We would encourage you to pray for anyone in your group who has a problem with their ears.
- There was an encouragement from these two passages (Eph 3 14-17,1 Corinthians 13 v8) To pray that we would all be rooted in Jesus Love. That God would reveal his love and glory to us. As his love is our greatest strength and weapon.
- Someone had a picture of a nest with fledging birds in. They had a sense that God was encouraging us to not stay in our comfort zones but to 'stretch/spread our wings'. That as we mature we need to learn to feed ourselves. That as we step out in faith God will teach us to 'fly'. But not to fear, God will continue to be with us feeding and sustaining us even as we 'leave the nest' – step out of our comfort zones.
- There was an encouragement that God changes and grows us through hard and painful times. - For eagles to survive for another 30yrs they go through a 150day change when they're about 30 years old, breaking of beaks and plucking out of their own feathers to allow new ones to grow in their place - this painful process allows them to live longer and through the pain it helps them become resilient and stronger.
- Someone had a picture of water dripping down rocks into an underwater reserve and people not feeling that they've got the calling/worthiness or capability, while they feel it's just drip, drip drip. But God has built up great reserves for them and that today is the day for them to receive from God.
- Someone had a picture of a rock on a mossy mountainside in the rain. The water seeped into the ground underneath and was feeding this huge underground lake. They felt the picture was for someone who felt the Spirit but not necessarily to the degree they want to; they feel that they have to be drenched to be anointed, but that rock is soaking wet from a little rain. There is something they want to do; either a calling or a social outreach. They felt God was saying even the faith of a mustard seed is enough - the resources of Heaven (the lake) is at hand when needs be and He won't let them down.