



# PEACEMAKERS

## **Peacemakers: “The Cost of the Peacemaker: Persecution”**

November 30 & December 1

**Speaker:** Pastor Joel Schmidgall

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:9-12

### **Series Overview**

Jesus taught, “blessed are the peacemakers,” and then He backed this up with teaching after teaching to help us live this out. For six weeks, we'll study and practice the art of peacemaking. We'll focus on the teachings of Jesus and our response will be our missional calling into the world.

### **Series Question**

How can you practice the following four ways of being a peacemaker this week?

1. Ask anything
2. Listen well
3. Disagree freely
4. Love regardless

### **Sermon Overview**

Too many believers are following Christ, but at a distance. We're close enough to see God's power, but too far to experience his fellowship. In Matthew 5, the scripture inspires us to be peacemakers, but also exhorts us that there will be persecution that comes in following Christ. What we learn though is that challenges actually lead to purpose.

Today we lean in to both the scripture as well as stories of those who have walked

through persecution. We pray you are both challenged and encouraged to go all in, in your pursuit of Christ and to live boldly in your faith.

## Sermon Questions

In Rasim's story, he shared that when he was greeted by others with "Salam," it was not just a greeting to him, but it was full of the pure love of God, more than he had ever experienced in his life. When have you experienced that love of God in an encounter with others?

Do you know Jesus as both your Savior and your Lord? What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord in your life?

When in your life have you been persecuted because of your faith? How can you tell if you are being persecuted because of living out your faith versus being appropriately rebuked for a sinful posture?

What would be different if you were dipping your toe in the water of faith compared to jumping in with both feet? In what ways have you dipped your toe in the water of faith? In what ways have you jumped in with both feet?

## Practical Application

- Read through the stories of the persecuted church around the world on [Open Doors](#). Pick a country and spend time this week praying for those in that country who are persecuted because of their faith.
- Rejoice in the faithfulness of those being persecuted.
- Repeat this declaration of faith throughout the week: *Lord Jesus, I believe you are Son of God. I believe that on the cross you took my sin, my shame and my guilt, and you died for it. You faced hell for me so I wouldn't have to. You rose from the dead to give me a place in heaven, a purpose on earth, and a relationship with the Father. Today, Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin to be born again. God is my Father, Jesus is my Savior, the Holy Spirit is my helper, and heaven is my home. In Jesus' name, AMEN.*