



People to Watch Out For 3 – Avoiding Peacebreakers Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- **Who comes to mind as an example of a peacemaker?** What is it about what they do or how they do it that makes them an agent of peace?
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- In the message, Chris gave examples of two different people in David's life who were peace-breakers. The first was King Saul, the insecure bully who literally threw spears at David repeatedly, trying to kill him because of his jealousy. **What do you do when you're attacked? What do you do if you claim to be a follower of God and someone treats you unfairly?**
- Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. What do you notice about Saul? What do you notice about David? **What was the impact of David's decision to put down the spear and not seek revenge?**
- The other peace-breaker from David's story was Absalom, his son, who was divisive in more passive and hidden ways. **Read 2 Samuel 15:13-14 to see David's reaction to the threat from Absalom. Why do you think David decided not to fight back?**
- **Are there peacebreakers in your life you need to look out for?**
- **Are you a peacemaker or a peacebreaker? How do you know? Are you ever a peace-FAKER?**
- Pause and read Romans 12:17-21 several times slowly. **What word or phrase stands out to you? What do you need to embrace? What do you need to let go?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **Look out for peacebreakers.**
- Romans 16:17b-18a – “Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests.”
- **Saul, the Insecure Bully**
- 1 Samuel 18:7-9 - “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”
⁸This made Saul very angry. “What’s this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they’ll be making him their king!”
⁹So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.
- 1 Samuel 18:10-11 - The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand,¹¹ and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.
- 1 Samuel 19: 9-10 -¹⁰ Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.
- 1 Samuel 24:2-4 - Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’”
- 1 Samuel 24:4-7 - David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe. But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.” So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.
- **he refused to pick up his spear**
- **"Better he (Saul) kill me than I learn his ways. Better he kill me than I become as he is. I shall not practice the ways that cause kings to go mad. I will not throw spears, nor will I allow hatred to grow in my heart. I will not avenge. I will not destroy the lord's anointed. Not now. Not ever!" – Gene Edwards**
- **The great warrior for God’s kingdom, David, would not fight for himself to be king.**
- **Absalom, the Two-Faced Manipulator**
- 2 Samuel 15:1-4 - He got up early every morning and went out to the gate of the city. When people brought a case to the king for judgment, Absalom would ask where in Israel they were from, and they would tell him their tribe.³ Then Absalom would say, “You’ve really got a strong case here! It’s too bad the king doesn’t have anyone to hear it.⁴ I wish I were the judge. Then everyone could bring their cases to me for judgment, and I would give them justice!”
- 2 Samuel 15:6 - Absalom did this with everyone who came to the king for judgment, and so he stole the hearts of all the people of Israel.

- 2 Samuel 15:13-14 - "We must flee at once, or it will be too late!" David urged his men. "Hurry! If we get out of the city before Absalom arrives, both we and the city of Jerusalem will be spared"
- **he refused to pick up his spear**
- **Are there peacebreakers in your life you need to look out for?**
- **Are you a peace MAKER or a peace BREAKER?**
- Titus 3:10 - ¹⁰ If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them.
- **Are you a peace FAKER?**
- Romans 12:17-19, 21 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.