

### Media and Graphics Notes

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sermon Starter Video?</b> | There will be a sermon starter video.                   |
| <b>Sermon Notes?</b>         | There are sermon notes and scripture verses throughout. |
| <b>Other Notes</b>           |   |

### Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

#### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon how to be peacemakers in our homes.

#### ***Why is this sermon important?***

This sermon is important because peace is beneficial in our lives as families, as well as part of our call as followers of Christ.

#### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

The Bless this Home sermon series and this sermon have been prepared with the help of the Bless this Home sermon series and resources from LifeChurch.tv. You can find resources used for this series on the LifeChurch.tv Open website at <http://opn.rs/cs/g/s2>

#### ***What are the next action steps?***

Tell the truth in love.  
Apologize when you are wrong.  
Forgive

#### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

Christ forgives us freely – even though we did not deserve it and could not earn it. This good news makes it possible to be peacemakers.

#### ***Metadata***

1. Topic(s)
  1. Grow
  2. Changing Lives
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
  1. Colossians
  2. Ephesians
  3. James



18th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2015

Bless this Home - Matters of the Heart

Matthew 5:1-9, NIV

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 1,949

Text Online at <http://j.mp/1K2uVj6>

Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1WL3cfr>

4. Matthew
3. Tags
  1. sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, peace, peacemakers, forgiveness, forgive, family

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## Table of Contents

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Matthew 5:1-9, NIV</b>                  | <b>5</b> |
| Response to Scripture                      |          |
| <b>Introduction</b>                        | <b>5</b> |
| Sermon Starter Video                       |          |
| Sermon Notes and Scripture Study           |          |
| <b>Opening</b>                             | <b>5</b> |
| Prayer                                     |          |
| Series Review                              |          |
| Overview                                   |          |
| Review and Preview                         |          |
| Today                                      |          |
| Reality of Families                        |          |
| Interaction: Difficult Family Member       |          |
| Parents and Parenting                      |          |
| Children                                   |          |
| Controlling Parents                        |          |
| Blended Home                               |          |
| Forgiveness for Parents                    |          |
| Transition                                 |          |
| <b>Scripture</b>                           | <b>7</b> |
| Word Study                                 |          |
| Transition                                 |          |
| <b>What Peacemakers Do</b>                 | <b>8</b> |
| Tell the Truth in Love                     |          |
| How To: Non Conflict Times                 |          |
| How To: Focus on the Issue, not the Person |          |
| Transition                                 |          |
| Apologize When You are Wrong               |          |
| How To: Admit to Specific Actions          |          |

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Transition

**Forgive** **10**

**Conclusion** **10**

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

## Matthew 5:1-9, NIV

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

## Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

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\*\*\* Start Sermon Timer \*\*\*  
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### Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

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## Opening

### Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## **Series Review**

### ***Overview***

Today, we're in the second week of a three-week teaching series called, "Bless This Home." We are looking at the teachings of Jesus in Mathew, chapter 5, in a section that's known as the Beatitudes where Jesus gave us 8 different directions for those who would be blessed.

Now, Jesus was talking to everybody, but what we're doing for the purpose of our study, is we're applying the beatitudes to our homes. Bless This Home. Because, honestly, so many homes today are not blessed.

### ***Review and Preview***

Last week we looked at the Beatitude, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled."

Next week we will hear more about the opportunities and challenges for families across El Dorado as we celebrate Children's Sabbath.

### ***Today***

Today, what I want to do is I want to talk about peace in the home. Because honestly, so many of our homes are not characterized as homes of peace. Instead, if you look at our homes, you would have to say they're characterized by conflict, or by tension or by strife. God has something way better for us.

## **Reality of Families**

### ***Interaction: Difficult Family Member***

Now, some of you may say, "Okay, you're talking to me. My home's got a lot of dysfunction in it, but most of it's not my fault." And the reality of it is that may be true because every home has an incredibly difficult family member. Every family, if you look somewhere, maybe not in your home, but in your extended family member, everyone has a psycho, difficult to deal with, person. It's a spiritual principal, right? Right? Let me just to prove it. Every family has someone who is, at least a little bit, crazy.

Those of you who would say, "Somewhere in my family, there is a difficult person," Raise your hands up right now. Just raise them up and leave them up. Look around the room. Almost every hand is raised.

Leave them up if you will. There are a few hands that are not raised right now. Remember, every family has a difficult family member. If your hand's not up in the air, it could be you. Right?

Relationships are difficult and they are challenging. It is amazing, especially in our families, how easily we can slip into dysfunctional cycles.

### ***Parents and Parenting***

Now, I don't know what it would be for you. Maybe, you're trying to raise your kids and your mom keeps looking over your shoulder, giving you advice and you're like, "Stay out of this, Mom." And there's tension between you and your mom.

### ***Children***

Or maybe, it's your own kids. They fight all the time and you find yourself saying things you thought you'd never say. "Don't make me pull this car over." "I'll pull this car over," and then you count to 3 and nothing happens.

Or maybe you are at home and you count to 3 and nothing happens.

And then you count to 5 and nothing happens.

And then you count to 40 and nothing happens so you just take a bath and give up because your kids are still fighting.

### ***Controlling Parents***

Maybe, you are a teenager or even an adult and think, "My parents will never trust me. They are so controlling."

### ***Blended Home***

You might be in a blended home and you're trying to raise your kids, and her kids, and our kids, and there's ex's involved, and it's so incredibly complicated. And you wonder, "How could there ever be peace with all these moving parts?"

### ***Forgiveness for Parents***

Some of you, you might be at a place where you, to this day, have not forgiven your mom or your dad for something that happened years and years ago.

### ***Transition***

Today, we are going to look at one of the Beatitudes of Jesus which applies to our life together as families. We will focus on Matthew 5:9.

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## **Scripture**

This is what Jesus said in Mathew, Chapter 5, verse 9. It is in your bulletin and on the screen, will you read it with me?

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.<sup>1</sup>**

## **Word Study**

Now, when Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," there's two words from the original biblical language that's translated as "peace."

In the New Testament, the Greek word is the word "eirene."

In the New Testament, the Hebrew word is "Shalom."

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 5:9, NIV.

The original words for “peace” mean a little more than often what we think in our English language. The word peace, “shalom,” means more than just the absence of bad, “I wish that you don't have hard times.” It also means, “I wish you the highest good.”

When Jesus says, “Blessed are the peace makers,” he doesn't just mean, “I want your home to be strife free,” but “I also want you to have the highest, good.”

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Transition***

So, if we're going to be disciples of Jesus Christ and we're going to be peace makers, what do peace makers do? Let me give you three things that they do.

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## **What Peacemakers Do**

### **Tell the Truth in Love**

Ephesians 4:15 says,

“Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ,”<sup>3</sup>

This is the first thing peacemakers do – tell the truth in love.

Peacemakers...  
tell the truth in love.

They tell the truth in love.

Because we are seeking to follow after Jesus, we will tell the truth in love.

Here are a few tips to remember as you seek to tell the truth in love in your home.

### ***How To: Non Conflict Times***

It is very important to tell the truth in love during non conflict times.

That's when we work on important issues. In other words, if someone is throwing a shoe at you because they're angry, that's not the time to raise a new issue. Okay? We work on them during non conflict times.

### ***How To: Focus on the Issue, not the Person***

Second, focus on the issue, not the person. Listen to these two statements:

I feel frustrated when I am interrupted.

You are frustrating.

Do you see the difference?

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:9, NIV.

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 4:15, CEB.



### ***Transition***

Peacemakers tell the truth in love.

### **Apologize When You are Wrong**

James 5:16 says,

“For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”<sup>4</sup>

Here is the second thing: Peacemakers apologize when wrong.

Peacemakers...  
tell the truth in love.  
apologize when wrong.

I want you to think for a moment about this: What do you think your relationships would be like if, when you sinned, you confessed it. “I am so sorry. What I did was wrong. I sinned against you. Will you please forgive me?”

Can you imagine how incredibly different our relationships would be if we owned our own sins, confessed them to one another, and prayed together?

Peacemakers apologize when they're wrong.

Now, how do we do it?

### ***How To: Admit to Specific Actions***

We admit to specific actions without excuses. We say, “Here is what I did wrong,” and no excuses. Here is what you do not do

You don't dare say, you know, “I'm sorry you got your feelings hurt, you big baby.” That's not an apology.

We apologize for specifics.

“I am so sorry that I belittled you in front of your friends. I have no excuse for that; that was wrong.”

“I am sorry I raised my voice at you like that; that was disrespectful. Please forgive me.”

### ***Transition***

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.<sup>5</sup>

Remember, Christ calls us not just to wish the absence of harm but the highest good. He calls us to something more. So, we tell the truth in love, we apologize when we're wrong.

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<sup>4</sup> James 5:16a, CEB.

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 5:9, NIV.

## Forgive

Finally, what do peace makers do? Peacemakers forgive.

Peacemakers...  
tell the truth in love.  
apologize when they are wrong.  
forgive

Peace makers forgive.

Some of you might say “I don't even want to forgive. How do I forgive?”

I'm not going to tell you it's easy but I will tell you is possible through the power of Christ. The scripture tells us how we do it in Colossians 3:13:

“Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.”<sup>6</sup>

Did you hear it? How do we forgive?

As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.

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## Conclusion

### Good News

Christ forgives us freely – even though we did not deserve it and could not earn it. This good news makes it possible to be peacemakers.

### Call to Action

Family is worth it.  
Your home is worth it.

Tell the truth in love.  
Apologize when you are wrong.  
Forgive as you have been forgiven

### Invitation

I have two kids. They both look a little bit like me.

When we make peace and when we do everything possible to live at peace with everyone, and when we even take it and let someone hurt us and freely forgive, guess who we look like?

We look like God, created in God's image, conformed to the likeness of his son.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Colossians 3:13, CEB

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 5:9, NIV.

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## **Closing Prayer**

[Text here]

Amen.