

Peace | Week 1 - The Cost of Peace**Message Big Idea**

Jesus reveals true peacemaking and calls us to follow him in his peacemaking ways.

Scripture

Luke 19:28-44

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Sin leads to its own consequences. God's warnings aren't anger at our breaking some arbitrary rules. God has created the world to work a certain way, and when we live contrary to God's way, it puts us on a collision course toward destruction. For instance, if you consistently lie to your family and friends, there will come a time when you won't just believe your lies but live them. This will cut you off from reality, others, and even yourself. You will reap those consequences. Like a friend trying to call you back to your senses through tears, God's warnings are God's attempts to align you with reality.
2. When we realize God is grieved by our sins and not bubbling over with wrath, we can learn to adopt the same posture when we work for peace in our individual lives and our broader society. If we are living the Jesus mission, we are bringing a posture of peacemaking into all of our relationships and the roles we play.
3. We may want to avoid conflict for many reasons. There may be some conflicts we must navigate cautiously for safety reasons. We may also have reasons to enlist help in resolving some of our conflicts on our own. However, we often don't address personal conflicts because we enjoy a false sense of peace with others. Everything on the surface seems fine, but that sense of peace disappears in disagreement. Pete Scazzero put it well when he said, "True peacemaking, when understood correctly, actually comes through disrupting false peace."
4. One Scripture passage that may help us when we are moving toward conflict is James 1:19, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Listening to understand rather than listening for your turn to talk is a humble and helpful posture in any conversation, especially when in conflict with others.

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism/
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about YOU+ by visiting: communitychristian.org/you/