

1. The Gospel and Peacemaking

- What does the word *shalom* mean to you after hearing how it was described in the message (Lev. 26⁶; John 14²⁷; Eph. 2¹⁴⁻¹⁸)?
 - How is *peacemaking* different from *peace-loving* or *peacekeeping*?
 - In what ways does the gospel itself call us to be peacemakers (2 Cor. 5¹⁷⁻²¹; Mt. 5²³⁻²⁶)?
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2. Mennonite / Anabaptist Heritage

- What parts of the Mennonite Brethren commitment to peacemaking (see page 2) stood out to you?¹ Do you think the church today still lives up to this heritage? Where do we succeed or fall short?
 - How do you respond to the challenge that “non-resistance” does not mean doing nothing (Matthew 5:39-42²)? Why is it sometimes easier to be passive than to engage in true peacemaking?
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3. Personal and Relational Peacemaking

- Elaine shared a story about reconciliation in marriage. What does that story teach us about God’s grace and the hard work of making peace?
 - How have you experienced God restoring peace in a broken relationship in your life?
 - How can prayer and community support help us when peacemaking feels impossible?
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4. Peacemaking in Society

- What tensions arise when Christians think about peacemaking in the context of war, policing, or justice?
- How did the examples from the Congo, Myanmar, and Ukraine broaden your understanding of peacemaking?
- What practical steps could our congregation take to support peacemakers in these difficult roles?

¹ Our Mennonite Brethren “Confession of Faith” Article 13 on “Love and Nonresistance” and Article 12 on “Society and State” are available at: <https://www.mennonitebrethren.ca/the-mb-confession-of-faith-full-text/>

² As Leon Morris notes, literal application of verse 42 as a rule of life would be self-defeating: “there would soon be a class of saintly paupers, owning nothing, and another of prosperous idlers and thieves.” But the principle is that the need of others comes before my convenience (cf. Deut. 15:7-11; Gal. 6:2-5).

5. Living It Out

- Craig said that each of us lives in “circles of context” where God calls us to make peace. What are some of your circles?
- Where do you find it hardest to be a peacemaker?
- What skills or attitudes help you engage in healthy, peace-building conversations when you disagree?
- What might God be asking you to do differently after hearing this message?

MB Confession of Faith – Article 13 (“Love and Nonresistance”)

God’s Community of Peace

Believers believe that God in Christ reconciles people to Himself and to one another, making peace through the cross. The church is a fellowship of redeemed people living by love. Our bond with other believers of Jesus transcends all racial, social, and national barriers.

Christian Peacemaking

Believers seek to be agents of reconciliation in all relationships, to practice love of enemies as taught by Christ, to be peacemakers in all situations. We view violence in its many different forms as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. We believe that the evil and inhumane nature of violence is contrary to the gospel of love and peace. In times of national conscription or war, we believe we are called to give alternative service where possible. Alleviating suffering, reducing strife, and promoting justice are ways of demonstrating Christ’s love.

Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-28, 38-48; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Peter 2:19-23