beatitudes:

Blessed are those Who Work for Peace

“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9 NLT).

Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible (Romans 12:18 NLT).
What’s on the Menu?
What do you think of when you hear the word peace? Do you think of the ‘60s, flower power, and Woodstock? Do you think of people in tie-dye t-shirts, hugging each other? Maybe you think of peace as the opposite of war. In almost every war, there are groups of people who are working hard to try and find a “peaceful” solution instead.

Well, this may not be the ‘60s, but we still need to work towards peace. Read Matthew 5:9. This verse tells us that those who strive for peace are blessed. In this study, we are going to discover why we need to work towards peace, and how we can have it in our everyday lives.

Appetizer:
1. What do you think the word peace means?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how peaceful do you think our world is?
3. Do you think Christians need to work towards peace?
4. Why do you think this issue is so important to Jesus?

Christ tells us we need to work towards peace. Why is that something He wants us to do? Let’s look at a few verses and see what they say.

Main Course:
1. Read Colossians 1:19-20.
   • According to verse 20, what did God do through Christ? What does it say God made “peace” with?

   • Read the last sentence in verse 20 again. How does it say God made peace? What does that mean? What price did Christ pay for “peace”?

   • After looking at this passage, why do you think Christ tells us to work for peace?

   • In your own words, what is this verse saying?

   • What fills the heart of those who work towards evil? What do you think that means?
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• What would be some examples of working towards evil?

• What fills the heart of those who work towards peace? What do you think that means?

• So, according to this verse, what would be another reason to work towards peace?

3. Read Colossians 3:15.
• What is the first sentence of this verse saying?

• According to this verse, where does peace come from, and where should it rule?

• When looking at the first sentence of this verse, what reason could you give for working towards peace?

• Now let’s look at the second half of verse 15. What is this sentence saying?

• What does it mean to be a member of the body? Are we members of the body?

• What are the members of the body called to do? What does that mean?

• Can you give some examples of how we can live in peace?

• According to this sentence, what reason could you give for working towards peace?

4. We have looked at some reasons why we should work towards peace. Now let’s look at some of the ways we can work towards peace.
• Read Romans 12:17-18. In this passage, the apostle Paul is talking to a church in Rome. In your own words, what is this verse saying?
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• When looking at verse 17, what do you think it means when it says not to repay evil with evil?

• What would be an example of choosing not to repay evil with evil?

• What does this verse say we should do instead?

• Now, let’s look at verse 18. What does this verse tell us to do?

• After looking at this passage, what can we do to work towards peace?

5. Now read 1 Peter 3:8-12. This is a letter written by the apostle Peter giving guidelines for the way we should act.

• List some ways these verses say we are to act. What are some examples?

• How would some of these help bring peace?

• After studying this passage, what could we do as Christians to work toward peace?
Beatitude Bottom Line: God calls us to be peacemakers. We need to strive towards peace in the world and in our lives every day.

Prayer Requests:
**Beatitudes**  
**Blessed are those Who Work for Peace**

**Taking it “To Go”**  
**Memory Verse**

“Blessed are those who work for peace, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9 NLT).

Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible (Romans 12:18 NLT).

How can I apply this lesson to my life?

What is one thing I will commit to the Lord this week?

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**The “To Go” Box**

1. Is there a promise for me to claim?

2. Is there a command for me to obey?

3. Is there a sin for me to confess?

4. Is there a lesson for me to learn?

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Questions about this study I need answered…