

# Peacemaking

*Matthew 5:9* “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

## Trust in the Lord and Do Good

3.1 Key Principle: Trusting God frees us to respond to conflict biblically.

3.2 Faithful peacemaking requires a **big God**.

3.3 God is **Sovereign** – supreme, unlimited, and totally in control.

*Isaiah 46:10, see also Daniel 2:20-22* <sup>10</sup>Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.

3.4 God is not only all-powerful, but also **all-loving** – He is for us!

*Psalms 62:11-12* <sup>11</sup>Once God has spoken; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God; <sup>12</sup>and lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work.

3.5 Therefore, nothing happens by **chance** – not even suffering or conflict.

*Matthew 10:29-30, see also 1 Peter 2:20-23* <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

3.6 Trusting does not require **understanding** everything.

*Deuteronomy 29:29* <sup>29</sup>The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

3.7 The path of trust has been **well marked**.

- Joseph (Gen 45:5)
- David (Psalm 37:5-6)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan 3:16-18)
- Peter (Acts 4:27-29)
- Paul (2 Tim 1:12)
- Jesus (Matt 26:42)

3.8 Trust is a **decision** based on faith.

- “Why me Lord?” Meaning, “This isn’t fair!”

vs

- “Why Lord?” Meaning, “Please show me all that I need to know, so I can cooperate with you.”

3.9 Personal reflection:

- Think of someone in your life who you deeply trust. What makes this person trustworthy?
- In what situations do you find it most difficult to trust God? Why?
- Think of a conflict when you did **not** trust God and you did not follow His ways. What was the result?
- Think of a conflict when you did trust God and you did follow His ways. What was the result?