

LIFE GROUP #2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – THE “PEACEMAKER”

1. Share with us your name, your favorite non-work activity, and your favorite thing to do when you just want to veg out or chill.
2. Where do you feel most at peace, most content; where is your “Happy Place” ?
3. This past Sunday we talked about “The Peacemaker” – did any of you get the sense you might be that personality type, or did someone in your life come to mind when you heard the description ? If so tell us about that person, or what you see in yourself that is the Peacemaker
4. All of us are tempted to procrastinate, to avoid doing something we don’t want to do by filling our time with something else. What is your favorite way of avoiding? It might be the activity about which you most often find yourself saying “Oh I shouldn’t have wasted so much time doing that...”
5. In your life, what techniques do you use to make sure you get done the things that need to get done – how do you keep the procrastinating you in check ? Do you use a calendar, a to-do list, reminders - what do you do to prioritize tasks ?
6. Share a time (perhaps recently) you had conflict with someone. What was it about, and how did it work out, or where is it now ? If you are honest, what kinds of thoughts went through you head during the conflict - about yourself or about the other person ? What emotions were involved for you?
7. How do you know when something is worth fighting for as opposed to just letting it go ? When is it better to keep the peace and when is it better to take a stand ? Which extreme is more often your default response ? Why do you think that is ?
8. Read **1 Peter 5:7-11**
7 Cast all your anxiety on [God] because he cares for you. 8 Be

self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- a. *What realities does verse 7 declare about us and God ?*
 - b. *How does a person actually live out verse 7?*
 - c. *Verses 8 and 9 imply there is a spiritual battle going on all around you – that you are caught up in the middle of a spiritual war whether you are aware of it or no, that there are things going on that you can't see. How do you react to this claim – does it make sense to you ? If it were true, how might it change the way you see your tendency to avoid conflict with others, or your stance towards being "responsible" in the world ?*
 - d. *As you look at your own situation right now, what tendency, habit, or thought do you most need to resist and stand firm against?*
 - e. *As you think about that thing, what do you think Peter would want to say to you right now ?*
9. How can we pray for you this week ?

ENNEAGRAM Sermon Notes: "The PEACEMAKER" #9

The need to avoid *"I don't know, where do you want to go?"*

Self Image: "I am content"

Core Desire: To be loved, to be at peace

Core Fear: loss and separation

Wants to avoid: Conflict

Primary Temptation: belittling themselves

Root sin: laziness

- None of the 9 Personality types is "Better" or "Worse" than any other
- Each Personality Type tends toward particular: Gifts & Talents, Needs & Desires, Sins & Fears, Ways we like to do life, unhealthy Temptations
- It can be shaming or liberating to discover your Personality type
- There is a range from healthy to unhealthy forms of every Personality type and we can go from one extreme to the other on a daily basis

- Take this model with a grain of salt, and focus on "Why do I behave the way I do?"
- My Goal: To love God & neighbor better – with my kind of crazy

Peacemakers feel a need for **Peace** and **Harmony** and want things (events, people, processes) to run as **Smoothly** as possible, and without **Conflict**. They tend to checkout to insulate themselves from threats to their peace of mind. As a result nines tend to have problems with **Complacency, Reluctance**, and **Stubbornness**

1 Peter 5:7-11

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

STEPS A "PEACEMAKER" CAN TAKE:

1. Remember what feels like intense, terrible conflict to you might just be a typical disagreement for someone else. Take a breath and engage
2. Practice saying no when someone asks you to do something you don't want to do.
3. Be aware of the numbing strategies you use to avoid having to deal with life, whether that's a glass of wine, or shopping, or Girl Scout cookies
4. Journal on the questions "What is my calling or life's program > Am I pursuing it or postponing it to keep the peace ?
5. Ask someone to help you find a task-management or to-do system to help you stay on task.