## DOVE

## > Matthew 5:9<

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

The Beatitudes are one of the most profound set of teachings in the Bible, especially this verse. I don't think we think about making peace quite as much as we need to. What if every Christ-follower were to set out every day with one of their expressed goals being to make peace? I think it would revolutionize the world. I think that it would be something that would make people look at Christianity and think, "wow, they're really doing some amazing things in the world. I want to know more about them, because they care about making the world we live in a better place." I believe we would live in a completely different world, one that reflects the goodness of God.

One of the ways we live this out in our family is that I try to remind my kids everyday as I drop them off for school. I will tell them " $g$ o and make peace today. I love you." When they come home from school I ask them how they made peace that day. Sometimes it's playing with a kid who was alone, other times it's helping friends stop arguing. But each time they are intentionally thinking about how they can make peace. This is a step for my family, what are some steps for you?

Your attempt at making peace might start with looking inward and seeing what things are in you that cause you to act in ways that promote the opposite of peace. Then it might look like finding out what systems around you promote violence or exclusion. Other steps could be looking for individuals who've been hurt-mentally, physically, or emotionally-and bringing about reconciliation with them. Peace always begins in small ways. Begin making peace today, in the situations that surround you and watch it grow and spread.

## Go and Do

Just do it. In every situation you find yourself in think, "how can I create peace here"? Then find creative and innovative ways of doing just that, making peace.

