

Session 5 | February 3, 2026

*Once Upon a Mountaintop:
The Blessedness of Living as Kingdom Citizens*



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY *with* PATTY STUMP

The following pages contain information provided
by our speaker for your study and enrichment.

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Week 5: Session Guide

This week we will look at the last two Beatitudes before we continue onward in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The seventh Beatitude found in **Matthew 5:9** states: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (NIV).

The term "children of God," (or in some translations, "sons of God") is a significant Biblical concept; it denotes a special relationship with God and is foundational in grasping both the **identity** and **privileges** of believers in Christ as their Savior.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**"* – Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Key Takeaways: _____

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

– Romans 14:19, NIV

The final Beatitude, found in **Matthew 5:10-12**, states: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"* (NIV).

Key Takeaways: _____

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." – 2 Timothy 3:12, NIV

Week 5: Growth Opportunity

Day 1: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”* – Matthew 5:9 (NIV).

As we explore the seventh Beatitude, *“Blessed are the peacemakers,”* let’s first look at **Isaiah 9:6**—Isaiah’s prophecy regarding Jesus. What attributes are attributed to the long-awaited child who would be the Messiah?

Jesus walked in a world filled with hostility, strife, and suffering. He came not as a fierce warrior, but as the One known as the Prince of Peace. We know that Jesus’ life and death paid the penalty for mankind’s sin. His sacrifice makes it possible for people who repent and turn to Him to find peace and reconciliation with a Holy God in a personal relationship.

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” – Romans 5:10, NIV

According to **Isaiah 2:2-4**, what will be an outcome of the Prince of Peace’s rule?

Not only has our Prince of Peace provided a way for peace with God, He calls Kingdom citizens to walk in His ways while on earth, including His way of peace. What does this look like according to these passages?

Matthew 5:43-45 _____

Luke 14:12-14 _____

Matthew 5:38-42 _____

John 17:20-23 _____

Conclude today reading **Galatians 5:22-23**. Kingdom citizens are to live differently, and as we do, the Holy Spirit works through us to point others to the Prince of Peace.

Day 2: As we noted at the conclusion of Day 1, a manifestation of the Holy Spirit within believers is peace (Galatians 5:22-23). According to **John 15:5**, as we abide in Christ, and He abides in us, we will bear fruit. What does the last portion of this passage state?

Ephesians 4:31-32 provides insight regarding heart matters that hinder peace with God, and peace with others:

As God's chosen vessel, are any of these divisive roots seeking residence in your heart? _____

If so, what has God instructed us to do (Matthew 4)? _____

Let's spend a little time on **Hebrews 12:14**. What two key exhortations are found in this passage?

_____ and to be _____ (to "be holy" means set apart).

These key elements necessitate that we walk in alignment with God and His ways, seeking to live like Christ.

In **1 Thessalonians 5:19**, Paul states: _____

Some of the ways the Spirit is quenched is when our hearts are inhabited by bitterness, anger, rage, harsh words, slander, evil behavior, pride, deception, and unedifying words in addition to sinful thoughts, emotions and behaviors. The Holy Spirit desires to reveal Himself, and His fruit, through our lives. This happens as we are kind, tenderhearted, loving, and forgiving. **Galatians 5:22-25** identifies the "fruit" of the Spirit (note: "fruit" is singular as together these attributes reflect the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit). God desires for each of these to be manifested in the lives of believers.

In wrapping up today, write out **Romans 14:19**.

As God's Spirit resides within you—and as you seek to walk in His ways—may the peace of Christ in your life point others to God, bringing Him glory and others intimacy with Him.

*"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."* – Romans 16:20, NIV

Day 3: What is the promise declared in this seventh Beatitude? _____

Peacemaking is a characteristic of God's children—not only peace with God, but peace with others.

Today, contemplate the truths of **2 Corinthians 5:19-20** – *"And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us"* (NIV).

It is impossible to live at peace with others without Christ, for as **Ephesians 2:15-16** states, He is our peace. Satan's "inroad" into lives is often through an "offense," causing tension and division between people. In

tending to your heart, let the remainder of your time today be in God's presence. Invite Him to reveal anything in you that is causing strife, division, and fostering a lack of peace. May you be encouraged by **Romans 12:18** – *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"* (NIV).

We live in a fallen world, and peace can seem fleeting, **but God!** Let's look to Him to do new things, both in our hearts and in our relationships as He works in and through us as peacemakers and children of God.

Conclude with **Philippians 4:7**. Who's peace? _____ Will do what?

_____! May it be so.

Reflections: What is the Spirit stirring in you as you reflect upon these passages and God's desire for His followers to usher in His peace?

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." – 1 Thessalonians 5:23, NIV

Day 4: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* – Matthew 5:10 (NIV).

Jesus expanded upon this last Beatitude with insights on persecution. According to **Matthew 5:10-12**, what characterizes persecution? _____

This Beatitude highlights standing up for what is right and just according to God's Word. What does **James 1:2-4** state regarding persevering through trials and difficulties?

What is being "tested?" _____

And what is God's desired outcome? _____!

Can you recall a time when you experienced a trial but chose to persevere despite adversity or persecution?

What was the impact on you spiritually?

What promise can we take to heart from **Joshua 1:5**? _____

No one enjoys persecution or being treated unfairly. As we live in a fallen world—and as spiritual warfare is a reality—turmoil, pain, and persecution are going to occur. Remember **Isaiah 26:3** –

Conclude your time in prayer focusing upon **Joshua 1:9**, noting what God imparts to your heart:

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.” – Romans 12:14, NIV

Day 5: Matthew 5:10-12 contains both a reminder and an encouragement. It states persecution will come to those who choose to live according to God’s righteousness and those seeking to live in alignment with God’s will and standards of justice and holiness. God also states that He desires for His children to grow and mature; trials are an avenue through which spiritual maturity occurs.

What does **2 Timothy 3:12** state?

We are called to walk in Christ’s ways. What does Jesus state in **John 15:18-21**?

What does verse 21 state about those who persecute you? _____

It is quite possible that each of us will experience varying degrees of persecution over the course of our lives.

How does Jesus instruct us in **Matthew 5:44**? _____

This is a heart changing request that Jesus gives to His followers; it requires pressing in to Him, and asking for His mercies, His heart, His strength, His perspective, and His will.

In closing today, we'll wrap up with two passages. The first is **Romans 8:18**; write it here:

In **John 17:22**, Jesus prayed, *"I have given them the glory that you gave me"* (NIV). Wow! "Glory" speaks of the splendor of God that resides in believers, His radiance. How is God's glory revealed in us?

As we've considered this week, God calls us to be peacemakers who are "blessed" despite and in light of persecution. According to **Hebrews 12:1-2**, where are we to place our focus?

Sisters, may we run this race of faith while on earth with a fixed focus on Him as well as an undeniable awareness that we are NEVER ALONE. Christ is with us every moment of every second of every day; and He invites us, as His body, to be there for one another. What a treasure sisterhood is!

** One of you sent me a link to listen to Chris Tomlin singing: "O Lord You're Beautiful;" it ministered to me deeply. I encourage you to search for it online and tune in as well, sitting with our precious Savior allowing these words of tenderness and worship to wash over you.

Reflections:

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." – 1 Peter 2:21, NIV