

# The Beatitudes

## Blessed are the Peacemakers

### Ready (*Plant the seed*)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. —Matthew 5:9

### Set (*Get the conversation started*)

God wants us to make peace. Romans 12:18 says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Wow! That is a tall order! Is Jesus asking us to get along with everyone ALL the time? Well, the kind of peace that Jesus is referring to is called *shalom*, which is the state of the world as God created it to be; everything living together in harmony—peaceful. How can we make this kind of peace? Matthew 7:12 says, “in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.” You may recognize it as the Golden Rule. Remembering to treat others with the kindness, compassion and humility that you would want to receive is a way you can contribute to the peace that God wants from us.

In the competitive nature of athletics, it can be difficult to remain a peacemaker. You may not find it easy to get along with everyone. Your competitors may not play fair; but you must choose to obey the rules. You may find it hard to be obedient to your coach; but you must choose to be respectful. You may not get along with all of your teammates; but you must let it go for the good of your team. Whatever the situation, Jesus calls on us to be peacemakers. You have to actively choose to treat everyone the way you want to be treated—especially when it is hard. If you do this, Jesus says you will be blessed. You will inspire others to do the same.

### Grow (*Talk it over*)

- When do you find it the most difficult to respond peacefully?
- How does responding in a peaceful way affect an argument?
- Why does God want us to be peacemakers?

### Pray

Father God, we love you. You are the great peacemaker and we are honored to be your creation. Thank you for your word to guide us in our relationships with others. We know that we can fall short in living at peace with everyone, Lord, but we also know what you want for us; shalom, all of your creation together in harmony. Please be with us this week as we encounter difficult situations and help us to remember to be your peacemakers. Let our actions inspire others and draw them closer to you. Let all we do glorify your great name. Amen!

### Overtime (*Team Building Game to Support Concept*) Things said in Anger Paper

-Materials: 1 piece of paper

-Directions: Ask players if they've ever had anyone yell at them in anger. Choose someone who raised their hand and give them the paper. Have them crinkle it up into a ball. Next ask them if they've ever said anything in anger that they regretted. Have the first player pass the paper ball to one of the players that raised their hand. Tell that player to smooth out the paper like it was before- like brand new.

-Say: *That's impossible, right? Once you say something in anger that hurts someone's feelings, it damages their spirit and it's not easy to undo the hurt that you caused. When you are angry, you have to stop and think before you speak.*