



# HIGH NOON

## Simple Yet Difficult

#nphighnoon

Week 4  
of 5

May 19, 2019

**Bottom Line:** As far as possible, live at peace with everyone.

**Icebreaker:** Think back to your childhood. When you got in trouble with your parents, what did you do to “make up”? With your spouse/closest friend, how do you make peace today? Are you the initiator or the hold out?

**Key Verse:** *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone . . . As much as possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with everyone.* Romans 12:17-18

God says that we all have people who violate our boundaries and we can't guarantee peace with them. But peace is so vital to a fulfilling life with God and others that a primary responsibility in our lives as Christ-followers is to be peacemakers. There are vital steps to resolving conflict we can follow that will lead us to personal peace, peace with God about the situation, and often peace with others.

1) Take the initiative. Intentionally deal with it. 2) Pray for humility and wisdom. 3) Identify the problem. 4) Never assume you know everything. 5) Own your part of the problem. You can't go to the other person until you do this. 6) Consider their perspective. Deliberately consider how they view and feel things. 7) Speak the truth in love. Tell the truth tactfully, the way we would like it said to us. Attack the problem, not the person. 8) Fix the problem, not the blame. Blaming only puts greater obstacles between people. 9) Focus on reconciliation, not resolution. Resolution means resolving every issue so there will no longer be disagreements or problems, Resolution is rarely ever achievable, because we all are different people with different perspectives. We will always have differences. But reconciliation reestablishes the relationship. If we are willing to focus on the relationship, we will see that some things just aren't worth fighting about. They aren't going to change, so we let them go to save the relationship. 10) Trust God. He is totally committed to making your paths straight as you follow Him.

Perspective is the only thing you can control. You can choose to make yours the perspective of a peacemaker when you steadily keep peace with God.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Why do you think we assume that making peace either means they give in to me or I give in to them? What have you found to be the most devastating results of conflict in your life?

“Most of us WANT peace. Very few of us are willing to MAKE it.” Agree/Disagree. Why?

“A peacemaker does not avoid conflict. A peacemaker engages conflict, not to inflame it but to resolve it. A peacemaker is one whose posture is primarily active; relentless in the pursuit of justice, harmony, repentance, and reconciliation.” How does this speak to where you are?

“We must operate from a place of personal peace and reconciliation with God. Only in possession of this gracious gift can the peacemaker endeavor to bring peace to others.” Do you find that to be true in your own agitation and frustration? What does it say?

## LOOK IT OVER >>>

“Conflict resolution/peacemaking is not a skill we are generally taught at home.” Reflect on your upbringing. What did you learn? How about your current living situation? What might you be teaching?

When we are in a situation, it is easy to assume we understand it because we are THERE; part of the story. But we don't know the other person's perspective or how they experience us. What might happen if you asked the person with whom you disagree, “What's it like to be on the other side of me?”

Speaking the truth in love requires us to consider how we would want to receive the same truth. “The trick is to address the problem and love the person.” How well do you believe you have mastered this skill? How might you improve?

“Seek to understand more than to be understood.” How could this principle help the peacemaking process?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Actively initiate peace talks with someone with whom you have experienced brokenness.
- 2) Look intentionally for any part of the areas that lack peace which are your responsibility, and address those first.
- 3) Spend significant time this week putting yourself in the perspective of the person with whom you are at odds. Ask Jesus to help you see why they feel as they do, not to correct them but to understand.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** As far as possible, live at peace with everyone.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Matthew 18:15

Tuesday: Ephesians 4:15

Wednesday: Matthew 5:43-48

Thursday: Romans 14:19; Philippians 4:6-7

Friday: 2 Thessalonians 3:16

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*