

10 Ways to be a Peacemaker (2.25.24)

These are some of the ways various biblical (IV) figures were peacemakers in their lives. If you wish to make a study of the Book of Mormon and D&C you can find other examples of men or women as peacemakers as well.

1. Put Others First Genesis 13: 6-10; Philippians 2:3-4

Quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's while moving about together. The land could not support them together, for their possessions were so great. So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.' Abraham was willing to put Lot first and let him choose the land he wanted in order to keep the peace. God honors those who do right.

2. Atonement for Wrongs Genesis 33:4, 10-11

Jacob stole his brother's birthright and from their dying father. Jacob had fled because Esau had wanted to kill him. Now, after many years they meet. Esau ran to Jacob and embraced him and kissed him. Jacob said, 'If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.' And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

3. Pray for Peace Psalm 106:23; Exodus 33; James 5:16

Moses prayed for peace between God and His people on more than one occasion. Because of the people's great sin, God wanted to destroy them all and start over with Moses. Moses had a heart for the people to be at peace with God. Because of his passionate pleas, God did not destroy them. Never discount how effective your persevering in prayer can be on behalf of others.

4. Actively Seek Peace Psalm 34:14 "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." David was a man who didn't just hope for peace but he actively pursued it. David knew he would be king, but instead of taking the throne for his own, he pursued peace with a jealous King Saul who wanted him dead.

Twice David had a chance to kill Saul and twice he refused. He made friends with Saul's son and respected all positions of authority. It seems ironic to call a great warrior a peacemaker. However, David always sought to be at peace with God and others.

5. Make Peace with Your Enemies 1 Chron 22:9; Prov 16:7

God promised David before Solomon was full grown that he would be a man of peace who even had peace with his enemies. That's why he wrote, "When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them." It's not easy to be at peace with our enemies. I'm sure that Solomon followed his father's example of actively seeking after peace. This requires wisdom, love, forgiveness, and praying for our enemies.

6. Be a Problem Solver 1 Samuel 25:23-27

David and his men had been helping the shepherds of a rich man named Nabal and at shearing time, they went to ask for food for repayment. Nabal refused. David and his men were prepared for an attack. A servant got wind of all of this and told Nabal's wife, Abigail. Abigail became a peacemaker. She acted quickly, trusting God for the outcome. She was brave, bold, humble, and generous. Her actions saved not only her household from violence and death, but also kept David from sinning.

7. Unify Believers Acts 9:26-28; Psalms 133:1

When Paul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Paul had been a terror to the church and was a known murderer of Christians. It would make sense that many were afraid and skeptical of his conversion. Barnabas courageously believed in all God had done in Paul's life and saw to it that the disciples knew of his conversion. He did not give up on Paul or the other believers. He was willing to risk censure from either side to see that God's people were unified. 'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.'

8. Teach Peace Romans 14:17-19

The kingdom of God is a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. The apostle Paul, in his letters to the believers, consistently encouraged them to live in peace. His teachings confirm that living in peace pleases God and edifies the body.

9. Change Your Thinking Acts 10:34-36

Peter, a Jew, could not believe he was in a Gentile's home, giving him the gospel and realizing that they would be brothers in Christ. It's hard to change our minds when we've been told by culture, family, or from experience about certain people groups. All need salvation and we are called to love all. We can ask God to change our hearts and minds no matter what bit of prejudice or judgement exists.

10. Reconcile Others to God – Share the Gospel Ephesians 2:14-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20

Jesus is our peace! He came for the purpose to reconcile us back to God through His sacrifice on the cross. He preached this peace to those who would believe in him. We have the message of peace to share with others that they may be brought near to Christ. 'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors... Be a peacemaker of the gospel. Share your story and pray they will turn from their sin and to Christ.'