

# PEACEMAKERS

Proverbs 6:6-9

Ephesians 6:12

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

## Week 3: **LESSONS FROM A SOLDIER** (With special guest Joseph Medina)

### APPETIZER: Get Sad, Not Mad!

- God's kindness leads us to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
- In view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1)
- God's grace teaches us how to live godly lives. (Titus 2:11-12)

Luke 6:27-28

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

INDIGNATION = *aganakteo*; *agan* (much) + *achthos* (grief; ache)

Matthew 5:21-22

### DINE IN: Soldiers, Ants, and Us

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Interview with Joseph Medina...

- Marines & Army National Guard...
- Lessons about loyalty...
- The unfortunate egoism of civilian life...
- Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary...
- From eye for an eye to turning the other cheek...
- From liberty to freedom...

### TAKE OUT: Basic Training

HOW WE TRAIN...

1. Active involvement on Sundays (Bibles, handouts, taking notes, volunteering)
2. All-in commitment to Home Church (Bibles, discussion, huddles)
3. Kids & Youth Programming (kidmax & Underground)
4. Local & global compassion (e.g., our Peacemakers Campaign)

Are you in?

### NEXT WEEK: Peacemakers Part 4

Bruxy continues our Peacemakers series, including an interview with Issa Ebombolo, the founder and director of Peace Clubs International.

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you talked about your involvement in our new Peacemakers compassion campaign yet? Make sure you're clear about goals and next steps for your Home Church.
2. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what stood out to you.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Ephesians 6:10-20**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
  - b. As westerners, we tend to think about arming ourselves for individual battle. But this is a picture of an army, getting ready *together* for battle. Let's look at this passage like soldiers who are motivated by love of one another to use our armour to protect one another. For each verse, talk about how that value discussed (staying strong, putting on the armour, standing for truth, being in right-relations, readiness to share the gospel, etc) is lived out best in community. Talk about actual examples from your life and/or what you have observed in the life of the church community. May God open our eyes to seeing how we were meant to, like the ants, do amazing things – *together!*
  - c. In walking through this exercise, has God highlighted anything in your life you can do to better support your fellow soldiers?
  - d. Paul asks for prayer for courage, but not for release from prison or any other change of hard circumstance. How do your prayers stack up?
  - e. Paul asks for prayer that he will be a courageous "ambassador" – one who represents one nation to another. An ambassador must:
    - i. know the policies of the kingdom he represents,
    - ii. understand the culture and language where he/she is serving,
    - iii. be of good character so as not to distract from the message.Talk about how you're doing in each of these areas.

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.

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## Quotes

Today's Message –  
Part 3: LESSONS FROM A SOLDIER

The Bible teaches that the Church is like an army, and each of us are like soldiers. But who is the enemy, and what does our battle look like?

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me sow love;  
and where there is injury, pardon.  
~ Francis of Assisi

The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is bitterness.  
- Martin Luther King Jr.

The church itself is not made up of natural friends. It is made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is the fact that we have all been loved by Jesus himself.  
~ D.A. Carson

Making peace is as costly as waging war. Unless we are prepared to pay the cost of peacemaking, we have no right to claim the label or preach the message.  
~ Ronald J Sider

I used to think that to be Christlike meant to be alienated and put off by the sin of others. But it's quite the opposite. *Refusing to be alienated and put off by the sin of others is what allows me to be Christlike.*  
~ Brant Hansen

Anger happens when we don't get our way and our will. Stepping out of anger means you are surrendering your will to God. It means you have accepted that you don't have to have your way.  
~ Dallas Willard

Ants are a good example of individuals surrendering their will to a larger, collective will. And look what they can accomplish together!  
~ Robert Bilmont

Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!  
It has no commander,  
no overseer or ruler,  
yet it stores its provisions in summer  
and gathers its food at harvest.  
~ King Solomon