

## Peace in our time

### God as peacemaker

This guide will take you on a journey through some of the different Biblical imagery about God as a Peace Maker.

#### **Ecclesiastes 3:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> *a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,*

<sup>8</sup> *a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

1. Ecclesiastes says there is time for war. How do we understand this statement?
2. Is it promoting war as a right or ethical thing?
3. Is context the thing that makes war ethical?
4. What circumstances makes it right or wrong?

#### **Isaiah 11:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.*

<sup>7</sup>*The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

<sup>8</sup>*The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.*

<sup>9</sup>*They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

5. What is Isaiah prophesying about here?
6. Is this just future oriented or is it about the here and now?

#### **Matthew 10:34-36**

*“Do not suppose that I have come to bring **peace** to the earth. I did not come to bring **peace**, but a sword. For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”*

7. Why does Jesus take a stance against “peace” in this passage?
8. What is the context of this passage and the larger point Jesus is trying to make? (Matthew 10:17-20)
9. What is it that Jesus is doing that will “not bring peace, but the sword”?

#### **John 14:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> *“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

10. What does Jesus want to leave with his people?
11. What does this look like in reality?
12. SO ... is God a God of Peace or not?