



# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## 25 NOVEMBER

### FLOURISHING: PEACEMAKERS

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

#### **MAIN TEXT:** *Matthew 5:38-48*

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### **COMING UP**

**Alpha:** 15<sup>th</sup> Oct – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Academy:** 21<sup>st</sup> Oct – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

**Morning Prayer:** 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.30am

**Christmas Family Service:** 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Carol Service:** 16<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Christmas Service:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec

**New Year Celebration:** 30<sup>th</sup> Dec

\***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Jesus Stories. For more info see [westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless](http://westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless).

#### **GETTING STARTED**

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.\* those around you in recent weeks?

#### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. What is the difference between a peace-keeper and peace-maker? Which are you?
2. How did Jesus make peace when he was on earth? Find stories and examples in the gospels. *Hint:* see the ultimate example in Colossians 1:19-20
3. Are there current battles you are engaging with internally that you feel ground is either being lost or gained? Do you agree that the biggest battle you must win is with your mind?
4. Where in your world is there conflict and injustice? What do you think can be done to bring about a change for good and the rule and reign of Jesus?
5. In developing a prayer life with Jesus, is there a place regularly to pray for the world in conflict and particularly for the persecuted church? Share examples and resources available to help you be at war with the enemy of our souls.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND PRAYER**

Pray for God's Kingdom to come as we seek to be peacemakers.

Pray for everyone in the Life Group to experience and delight in the peace God has won for us in Christ.

Pray that Chapel will be a blessing and bring peace to its local community – particularly over this Christmas period, but also with our building project and outreach ministries such as Foodbank.

Pray for Commission and our church family across the world as they seek to bring peace and Good News to their communities.