

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 20

Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

This passage comes from the Sermon on the Mount and as we look for encouragement during this Lenten season, the sermon provides us with the basic truths of Christianity, which are so encouraging for believers. Envision yourself sitting on the hillside with the disciples and others listening to Jesus teach. It would be such an awe-inspiring time sitting in that crowd looking into Jesus' face and hearing the blessings and lessons he shared. Today we reflect on one of those blessings from Jesus, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

What is a peacemaker? Jesus is the peacemaker we are to emulate, the Prince of Peace, who paid the ultimate price for our relationship with God by giving his life on the cross. "God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son. And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God." (Colossians 1:19 -20 CEV). By Christ's action and with our acknowledgement of our belief in God, God's grace and peace enters each of us. What a wonderful gift! By simply asking, we receive peace. "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7 ESV).

As children of God, it is our responsibility to share the peace that God has bestowed on us. Peacemakers must actively work toward living in peace in all

areas of life. We do this by spreading the good news of God's love. We live by faith, promote God's peace, and live in peace and unity with others. This is done by creating relationships with others and by helping address the needs of individuals, our community, and beyond. Peacemakers can take simple steps to serve at food banks and soup kitchens, help care for the elderly, volunteer with children in crisis, contribute to mission work, and so much more while showing God's love and sharing the Bible promises.

As we focus on the children at Morningstar, what amazing examples of peacemakers walk among the children daily, both seen and unseen. The loving administrators and staff organize and implement plans to meet the needs of the children. There are community volunteers that provide activities and other outreach. Unseen peacemakers are lifting Morningstar up in prayer and providing from afar as needs arise. As you consider fasting and sacrificing during the Lenten season, consider becoming a peacemaker, sharing God's grace, peace, and love with the children of Morningstar.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Pat Parsons, Statesboro, Georgia, is a retired educator that spent 30 years as an elementary teacher, and the final 15 years of her career at Georgia Southern University, preparing teachers. Pat has held leadership roles for over 20 years in the children's ministry at her local church. Pat is a member of the Altrusa Club of Statesboro, where she volunteers in their focus on literacy initiatives and meeting the needs of families and children in Statesboro and Bulloch County and Pat has been an avid supporter of the Card Ministry to the Children of Morningstar during the pandemic.

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