

# PEACE MAKERS

*in a noisy world*



## *01 A Different Citizenship*

Because our hope is in Christ and His promised reign, we can engage our neighbors, communities, and nation **without fear, tribal loyalty, or messianic expectations of politics.**

### **EMBARK**

1. Think of a recent cultural or political issue that made you feel anxious, angry, discouraged, or unusually hopeful. What do you think you most wanted to change in that situation?

*We often assume our strongest emotional reactions come from our values. In reality, they usually reveal our hopes and fears. Before we can learn how to be peacemakers, we must first clarify where our deepest loyalties and expectations actually rest.*

### **EXAMINE**

#### **READ 1 Peter 2:9–12**

2. How does Peter describe the identity of believers?
3. What words in this passage describe how Christians relate to the surrounding world?

#### **READ Hebrews 11:10, 13–16**

4. What was Abraham ultimately looking forward to?
5. How does this passage describe the way people of faith lived in the present world?

#### **READ Philippians 3:17–21**

6. Where does Paul say our citizenship is?
7. What are believers waiting for?
8. According to this passage, what will Jesus ultimately do?

#### **READ Matthew 5:9**

9. What does Jesus promise about those who pursue peacemaking?

## EXPOSE

Our culture trains us to treat public outcomes as ultimate. Scripture trains us to live as people who are waiting for a better city and a better King.

Christians are not called to withdraw from society. Neither are churches called to become political power centers. The church bears witness to Christ's promised reign, while individual believers live responsibly and lovingly within the present order.

When our deepest hope becomes tied to cultural control, political success, or social stability, peacemaking becomes nearly impossible. Fear, anger, and tribal loyalty replace patience, humility, and trust in God.

Peacemakers are not people who avoid conflict. They are people whose identity and future are so secure in Christ that they are free to pursue truth and love without panic or hostility.

## ENGAGE

### Group Activity – *Citizenship Check* (8–10 minutes)

As a group, discuss the questions below.

*Step 1 (3–4 min): Identify pressures*

Which of the following most often shapes the way Christians around you talk about public life?

- fear of cultural loss
- frustration with leaders
- desire for influence
- concern for justice
- longing for stability

Which one most shapes you?

*Step 2 (3–4 min): What Belongs Where?*

For each statement below, decide together which category it should go into.

Gospel clarity	Wisdom and conscience	Christ's Promised Reign

- *Voting responsibly*
- *Defending biblical truth*
- *Expecting cultural renewal*
- *Waiting for Christ's return*
- *Loving difficult neighbors*

*Step 3 (2–3 min): Church or Christian?*

Discuss: Which of the following belong primarily to **the church as a church**, and which belong to **Christians as individual believers**?

- *forming consciences*
- *participating in public policy*
- *proclaiming the gospel*
- *serving in civic roles*
- *guarding unity in the body*

What happens to the church when we blur these two responsibilities?

### For further discussion...

10. Why does peacemaking become harder when people feel their way of life is threatened?
11. How might confusion about our true citizenship damage the church's witness?
12. What would it look like for our church to model a visibly different posture toward public disagreement?

## MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 3:20 (ESV) *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."*