



I Am a Peacemaker

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

MATTHEW 5:9

When you think about the word “peacemaker,” what comes to mind? Maybe you think of two powerful world leaders shaking hands and saying, “Our countries aren’t going to fight or have war between us anymore. We are going to get along.” Or you recall a scene in a movie where two characters who were enemies decide to put aside their differences, listen to each other, and try to become friends.

You might be the kind of girl who gets along with everyone and tries very hard to make sure everyone in your world is friends with everyone else. You also might be the kind of girl who likes to avoid conflict—who disappears to her room when people start fighting with each other. I can identify with this last one. I have always tried to avoid conflict, and as a little girl I would do all I could to stay away from awkward moments. The problem with avoiding conflict is that it sometimes kept me from making things right

I Am Yours

with my friends and family. Conflict can be good when it ends in relationships being made right.

Did you know you don't have to be an important world leader or have a certain personality to be a peacemaker? The first step to becoming a peacemaker is to be a follower of Christ, and the first place to start making peace is in your own family. All peacemakers have some things in common:

- *They have compassion.* They care for others and truly want them to be happy.
- *They are kind.* They consider other people's feelings and put themselves in their shoes to imagine how they feel.
- *They show forgiveness.* They understand that everyone makes mistakes, and they are willing to give people a second chance to do the right thing.
- *They practice love.* They try to see others as God sees them—and then treat others the way God would treat them too.

Being a peacemaker means being like Jesus. Being Jesus wasn't easy even for Jesus! His life on earth was a lot of work. It involved more pain and sacrifice than I would want. But the call to be like Jesus was never supposed to

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be easy. We can only do it as we stay close to Him. He will give us the strength, and He even promises to give us joy in the hardship when tough times come. The more you pray and stay connected to the Lord, the more you will understand how to treat others and how to bring God's love and joy to every situation and every person—starting with your very own family. And that's where real peace begins!

Dear God,

Thank You that You don't want us to live with fighting, tension, and negativity in our homes or in our world. You want us to get along with others, and You want us to bring peace into every situation we encounter. Help me to remember that no matter what my role is or what my personality is like, I can trust You to help me become a peacemaker, even when making peace is difficult or requires me to endure hardship and pain. Thank You for helping me and my family to create an environment that honors You and models Your love to others.

In Jesus's name—amen.