

# P E A C E M A K E R



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

“If your first concern is to look after yourself, you’ll never find yourself.  
But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you’ll find both yourself and me.”

Matthew 10:39 MSG

READ: MATTHEW 10:34-39

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today’s passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What comes to mind when you hear Jesus say that he came to, “bring the sword?”

Read Micah 7:1-7 how has the prophet used the division of families to frame his way of finding hope in desperate times?

Read and reflect on these New Testament passages where the sword is referenced. Write a few words to describe what the sword is doing or provoking in each of these verses?

- Ephesians 6:10-17

- Hebrews 4:12

What are some connections you can draw between the cause of the sword in today’s passage and the action of the sword in the passages listed above?

In biblical times, the maintenance of one's familial bond was a matter of life and death. The family was an individual's primary source of security, identity, sustenance, and status - to be alienated or divided from one's family would almost certainly mean a loss of these things. Remembering this helps to put passages like this, and the calling of the first disciples into perspective. When Jesus asked Peter and James to "drop their nets" and follow him, this was a symbol-laden request that they drop their vocations which were familial roles, and set aside the comfort, security, and identity assured through these positions, in order to dedicate themselves completely to following Jesus.

What are some equivalents to this kind of "loss of life" in this day and age?

What are ways that we might sever our loyalties and connections to these things in order to give our undivided selves completely to following Jesus?

## PRACTICE:

### A Daily Prayer of Examen for Peace

This practice is an adaptation of St. Ignatius' Examen, an evening prayer that reflects back on the whole of your day. Consider using a notebook to record your observations.

This is a great prayer to introduce to kids at dinner table or before bed

- Notice one or two moments in your day when you received a blessing. Give thanks to God for each gift.
- Ask God to reveal any areas where you are clinging or developing an unhealthy dependence on something or someone other than God. To whom, or to what, are you too attached? Write a request for help in a one sentence petition to God.
- Ask God to reveal any thing, person, activity, decision, or conversation that you are resisting, avoiding, or ignoring. Again write a request for help in this area to God.
- Ask God to reveal an area in your day where there was wholeness and real peace. This might be in a relationship, certain work or activities, or a particular place. Write a thank you prayer to God in response to this.
- Spend some time reflecting on the whole of your day and the observations that you have made of it, what might be one area where you feel called to make a change in your thoughts, words, or actions? Conclude by asking God for help in whatever it is that you intend to do.