

PATH TO PEACE

TALK IT OVER

Peace for Your Home

Path to Peace - Week 3

Pastor Andy Wood

April 25-26, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

Matthew 5:9 (NIV), Psalm 128:1–6 (NIV), James 3:13–18 (NIV)

Questions

1. On the “Path to Peace,” God also wants you to experience “Peace for Your Home.” Peace could be defined as “an ordered and blessed life flowing from a right relationship with God.” The Hebrew word for peace, “shalom,” signifies far more than an absence of conflict—it also implies wholeness, completeness, contentment, sound health, safety, prosperity, and tranquility! Matthew 5:9 (NIV) says, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*” What benefits do peacemakers bring to the home? According to Matthew 5:9, what will “*the peacemakers*” be called?
2. Psalm 128:1–6 (NIV) says, “*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you live to see your children’s children—peace be on Israel.*” In Psalm 128:1-6 above, what specific blessings are ascribed to “*all*” who “*fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him*”? How does fearing the Lord lead to household blessing?
3. Peace in our homes requires a commitment to work on our relationships. Yet when seeking peace with others, we cannot control others’ transformation, responses, or priorities. We can only control how we respond, how we structure what we are responsible for, and how we keep

making healthy deposits into our relationships. Discuss practical ways we can sow seeds of peace in the home by things like: eating a meal together around the table, laughing together, making positive memories, yielding to others, practicing not always having the final word, speaking affirming words, writing personal notes of encouragement, playing a game or sport together, sharing a hobby, going for a walk, paying attention to hellos and goodbyes, telling the truth, saying "I'm sorry" when wrong, asking for forgiveness, drawing healthy boundaries, and praying for and praying with others. Discuss good family traditions that help create an environment of peace in the home.

4. God blesses a prioritized home! The starting point for "Peace for Your Home" is: (1) Worship of God! Then comes: (2) Committing to a covenant marriage, (3) Intentional parenting, and (4) Meaningful work. There's a sequence—God will not bless misplaced priorities! Discuss how proper priorities lead to peace in the home. How do misplaced priorities steal peace?
5. James 3:13-18 (NIV) says, "*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*" What does humility have to do with wisdom according to James 3:13-18? Compare and contrast Godly wisdom versus demonic "wisdom." What are the qualities of "wisdom that comes from heaven"? What are the characteristics of "earthly, unspiritual, demonic" "wisdom" that "does not come down from heaven"? In what areas of your life do you feel you need to grow in wisdom, and how might this passage inspire you on your journey to God's peace?
6. James 3:18 (NIV) says, "*Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*" Every home has both seeds and weeds! Weeds are things like bitterness, unforgiveness, envy, selfishness, boasting, and ignoring our own issues. One of the most important questions we can ask is, "What weeds do I need to pull out of my heart?" Pulling weeds looks like saying, "I was wrong. I am sorry. Please forgive me. This thing in me needs to change. I am willing to try something different. I should not have said that." Discuss how reaping a "harvest of righteousness" requires allowing God to come in and pull the weeds out of our hearts.
7. The harvest requires endurance: your home is blessed as you persevere! If you are faithful, Scripture promises you will "*reap a harvest of righteousness*"! There's a law of harvest God has structured for your home: (1) You reap what you sow, (2) You reap after you sow, and (3) You reap more than you sow—so that you can bless others! Ask God today to fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit! What practical steps can you take this week to be a peacemaker who sows in peace and reaps "*a harvest of righteousness*" in your home?

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

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