

GESTURES

FOLLOWING JESUS IN SIMPLE WAYS

Gestures—Week Three: Peace Out

Connect

When did you first become aware of the reality of *conflict* in your life? How old were you? What were the circumstances? Share more with your group about your eyes being opened to friction, frustration, conflict, or even war in this world.

Grow

1. **Read Micah 4:3.** What reflections of this truth do we see in the world today? Do you think it is possible this will come to fullness before Jesus returns? Why or why not?
2. It's been said, "If you want peace, prepare for war." What is it about the world today that causes a statement like this to resonate or seem to make so much sense?
3. **Read Ephesians 6:10-18.** Scott asked the question, "Are you trained for the war you're in?" What is the war you're in? How have you been—or how can you be—trained for that war?
4. *There is evil in this world; we are in a bigger battle than we can fathom.* How can we experience peace even while we're engaged in the larger conflict around us?
5. **Read Matthew 5:9.** Talk about the differences between *peacekeepers* and *peacemakers*.
 - a. What's the difference between making peace and having peace? Talk through these two important questions: How did Jesus make peace? How did Jesus have peace?
6. **Read John 16:33.** The world is at war; we can still have peace. "Jesus is our peace." What does that mean - *how* is He our peace?

Pray

Pray the Lord will minister to the conflicts in your life—your relationships, your emotions, the places you're stuck, and more. Ask Jesus to be your source of peace in the midst of the conflict and to be actively working in your pathway to bring peace into the situations and circumstances of your life in the upcoming season.

Next

Moving toward relational peace means we say one or more of the following... which are you already doing? Which is hardest for you?

- I love you enough to face this with you.
- I love you enough to stop pretending everything is okay when it's not okay.
- I love you enough not to settle for the façade of a good relationship anymore.
- I love you enough to pursue healing.