



SEP 11, 2014

MARKING 9/11 WITH PEACE

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

- Matthew 5:9

Jesus asks no small thing here. When wronged, it is so easy to lash out in retaliation. It feels like we have earned that right.

Into this conflict about who is right and who is wrong steps Jesus, who calls us to love one another, not as the other deserves, but as we have been loved by Jesus.

What is at stake? *Read your Bible in one hand, the newspaper in your other.* That is Karl Barth's wisdom, never more important than today. In this week marking the 13th anniversary of September 11th, 2001, forever seared into the American consciousness, we read in the paper about conflict erupting in Syria, Israel and Palestine, Ukraine, in the streets and homes and schools here in the United States. How can we pray "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, here on earth, as it is in Heaven?*" without knowing that God calls us to be peacemakers, to help God's Kingdom come among us?

Begin with your home, your school, your workplace, your congregation. Let your fist open and extend in a gesture of goodwill. Let your words bear love, not retribution. Let your actions make people safe. Let your courage step into bullying and separate those involved, pointing a way to reconciliation. Let your faith in God, who created all in God's image, help you see, not an enemy, but a potential friend, whose story you need to hear.

Be peacemakers. Wage peace with your breath.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES:



**SPEAKING!
COACHING!
TEACHING!**

Fall programming? This is the perfect opportunity to call or email Marilyn

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WAGE PEACE
by Mary Oliver

Wage peace with your breath.
Breathe in firemen and rubble,

breathe out whole buildings and flocks of red wing blackbirds.

Breathe in terrorists
and breathe out sleeping children and freshly mown fields.

Breathe in confusion
and breathe out maple trees.

Breathe in the fallen
and breathe out lifelong friendships intact.

Wage peace with your listening:
hear sirens, pray loud.

Remember your tools:
flower seeds, clothespins, clean rivers.

Make soup.
Play music,
learn the word thank you in three languages.
Learn to knit, and make a hat.

Think of chaos as dancing raspberries,
imagine grief as the out breath of beauty
or the gesture of fish.
Swim for the other side.
Wage peace.

Never has the world seemed so fresh and
precious.
Have a cup of tea and rejoice.
Act as if armistice has already arrived.
Don't wait another minute.

Need some help planning your
ministry this fall? Marilyn is
available for personal coaching.

[EMAIL](#)

* Discuss the conflict in your child's life. How can you resolve the conflict without hitting with hands or words?

* Role play resolving conflict. Practice. Refine. Check in: how did it go?

* Catch your child resisting the urge to push, say mean things, butt in line, hit, or hurt. Affirm their self control.

* Let kids know that you, as an adult, are sometimes challenged to resist hurting others.

* Be a role model of finding a way to peace in your life. Let your child see you returning kindness for unkindness, respect for disrespect.

* Tie it to Jesus' words and example.

* When you or your child don't resist the urge to lash out, to hurt or hurt back, take it to God in prayer. Confess. Name and accept God's ready forgiveness.

* Forgive one another. "I am sorry. Can you forgive me?" "I forgive you" or "I will work on that."

QUESTIONS TO ASK, BEFORE YOU SPEAK

* Is it true?

* Is it kind?

* Is it helpful?

If you answer "no" to any question, how might you say it in a way to express love, bring hope, and reconcile conflict?
