



*Wesleyan Ways: Exploring our Methodist Roots*  
Episode 8: Patiently Peaceful  
Discussion Guide

**Discussion Questions**

1. Derek begins with Jesus' words, "Blessed are the peacemakers," emphasizing that *peace must be made*. How does this shift your understanding of peace from something passive to something active?
2. The conversation suggests that peacemaking requires intentionality. Where do you see opportunities in your daily life to actively make peace?
3. Derek notes that peacemaking often costs us something—our pride, our comfort, even our desire for revenge. What has peacemaking cost you in the past? What might it cost you now?
4. The group discusses how being rooted in God's love makes peacemaking possible. Why is spiritual grounding essential for this kind of work?
5. The conversation highlights the importance of addressing historical and personal legacies of harm. Why is it difficult to face these realities? Why is it necessary?
6. Derek shares about walking through the Legacy Museum slowly, allowing space to confront painful history. What practices might help individuals or churches engage difficult truths with honesty and humility?
7. The episode emphasizes that holiness is not separate from how we treat others. How does this Wesleyan understanding challenge the way we think about discipleship?
8. Derek says that devotion to Jesus is revealed in how we treat our neighbor. Where do you see a gap between belief and practice—in your life or in the church?
9. The group distinguishes between *false peace* (absence of conflict) and *true peace* (peace with justice). Why is this distinction important?
10. The Hebrew concept of *shalom* points to wholeness for all people. Where do you see "false peace" in the world today? What would true peace look like in those situations?



11. The conversation moves from global issues to local ones—neighborhoods, workplaces, and even families. Why is it important to start peacemaking close to home?
12. Derek challenges listeners to consider whether they avoid speaking truth in order to “keep the peace.” When might silence actually prevent real peace?
13. The episode lifts up the call to be “repairers of the breach.” What might that look like for your church or community right now?

### **Naming the Cost, Choosing the Call**

Invite participants to reflect silently or in a journal:

- Where is God inviting me to make peace right now?
- What is it likely to cost me?
- What might be gained—for others and for the community—if I say yes?

Then, as a group, pray:

God of peace,  
You have called us not just to seek peace, but to make it.  
Give us courage when the cost feels too high.  
Give us humility to face hard truths.  
Give us love that refuses to give up on others.  
Make us repairers of the breach,  
Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

### **Next Steps**

Choose one intentional step to start this week:

- Initiate a difficult but honest conversation rooted in love.
- Learn a story or history that is different from your own.
- Actively listen to someone you disagree with—without preparing a response.
- Identify one injustice in your local community and take a small step toward addressing it.



At your next gathering, share what you experienced, what was difficult, surprising, or life-giving.

### **Terms to Know:**

#### **Peacemaker**

One who actively works to reconcile, restore, and bring healing in relationships and communities.

#### **Shalom**

A Hebrew word for peace that means wholeness, justice, and right relationship across all of life.

#### **Social Holiness**

A Wesleyan conviction that holiness is lived out in relationships and community, not in isolation.

#### **Sanctification**

The ongoing process of being formed in love, growing into the likeness of Christ.

#### **Justice**

The restoration of right relationships and systems so that all people are treated with dignity and fairness.

#### **Repairers of the Breach**

A biblical image (Isaiah 58) describing those who work to restore what has been broken in society.

### **Additional Resources:**

- *Book of Resolutions* - [https://issuu.com/cokebury/docs/the\\_book\\_of\\_resolutions\\_of\\_the\\_united\\_methodist\\_ch?r=xKAE9\\_zUINQ](https://issuu.com/cokebury/docs/the_book_of_resolutions_of_the_united_methodist_ch?r=xKAE9_zUINQ)
- *Social Principles* - <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>
- *General Board of Church and Society* - <https://www.umcjustice.org/>