

## **#5 Seek Peace and Know God's Blessing**

**Narrator: Good Morning!**

**Today is our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of our 8 week "Seeking Peace" series. Look at our Peace Tree ...it's getting kind of full isn't it? I think we might have to add a few more branches pretty soon. Let's review...so far we've learned about "Seeking Peace with your Neighbours", "Seeking Peace by Forgiving", "Seeking Peace by Being Fair" and "Seeking Peace by Sharing". Today's lesson is called "Seek Peace and Know God's Blessing" which I'm going to shorten to "Seek Peace by Blessing".**

**The Bible is full of Blessings. God blessed people and fathers blessed sons. It was very very important. People longed to be blessed. The beatitudes are full of Jesus' blessings for many kinds of people. Today, unfortunately, we seem to have completely given up or forgotten about this. The only time we seem to bless each other...is if someone sneezes!...what's that about?**

**We still seem to enjoy blessings...and eagerly come to church to see babies get blessed when they are dedicated, people getting blessed at their baptisms, and couples getting blessed when they get married. And don't we all enjoy it when the pastor puts his arms out like this... and says**

**"The Lord Bless you and Keep you**

**The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you**

**The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace"**

**Don't we all kind of scoot over a bit...to make sure we're included in his arms...and included in that blessing.**

**And some of you here, me included, have been ill enough that a pastor has come to your house and anointed you with oil...and given you a blessing for a healthy recovery...and that feels good.**

**Let's face it...it feels good to get blessed.**

**But I think we've forgotten...that the minister isn't the only one who can request blessings...we all can!**

**When we lived in Sarasota, Tina Miller, who was a member of our church there, was the speaker at a women's day one weekend, and she spoke about this very same thing. At the time she had 7 young children from about age 3 to 12.**

**She said that one day, she decided to start " blessing " her children every day. Now that doesn't mean pray for them...I think we all do that....but actually bless them...so that they are aware of that blessing. So every morning before they went anywhere...she would line up her 7 children (you have to picture this...5 boys and 2 girls) and she would put her hand on each of their heads ...and bless each one of them...for whatever they were struggling with that day. For example if one had a bit of a temper tantrum earlier, she'd say " Please God, Bless Josiah with patience today"...then she'd go on to the next one, and if he was having trouble with math, she'd say" Please God Bless Zacharia with math skills today" (all 7 had very biblical names)**

**Anyway about a month after she started this, one morning they were running a bit late, so they were ready to hurry out the front door when Elijah, one of the middle children said..."but mom, you haven't blessed us yet"..and they all lined up and waited for their blessings.**

**I just loved that story....and it shows that we all truly like to be blessed.**

**There is another story about a grandmother who lived far away...but called her only granddaughter once a week....and at the end of every phone call, the grandmother would lovingly say to her granddaughter..." God Bless you this week"....and how once the grandmother had died, the granddaughter missed those words so much..."no one is blessing me anymore", she said.**

**So we can bless our children , grandchildren, parents, grandparents whenever we want...for whatever they need blessings for. Isn't that wonderful?**

**And we can even bless people we don't even know.**

**Let's watch the skits.....we'll have 2 different scenerios....see which you think is the better one.**

**Skit #1**

**Right side of stage has two chairs, one in front of the other, and front one has a steering wheel in front of it (to represent a car)  
Another chair in middle of stage with a back pack on it**

**2 actors: a mother  
a daughter, dressed as a 12-yr old with a back pack**

**Mother: Amy, I hope you studied your math last night.**

**Amy: (digging around in backpack) I sure did, mom...I studied for hours. But I'm so nervous....and worried ...this exam is really important. And I do struggle with algebra. What if I forget everything!**

**Mother: You better not!! I'll be very disappointed if you do. Remember that! I don't understand you... I was great at math! It was easy! Now get in the car...and I'll take you to school.**

**Amy:(looking down and worried) OK  
(both Amy and mom get into car, Amy in back, and mom in front.. mom starts driving....no seat belts....bounce slightly in seats as they drive)**

**....driving.....**

**Mother : ( poorly dressed man sits on corner of stage in front of car) Oh my...look at that good-for-nothing man....he sits there on the corner in front of the hotel every day. What is his problem? Why doesn't he get a job? Or move...I'm sick of looking at him every time I drive by. ( I played the mother, and my husband played this man...which got quite a laugh)**

**Amy: Yeah! What a loser!  
(man sits back on front pew after this comment)**

**Mother: (woman walks in front of car, with large hankie, crying) Look at her...walking along crying. What's her problem?(slams on brakes)**

**(yells out of window) Watch where you're going? Good grief! ...she's so busy crying that she's not even looking where she's going?**

**Amy: Yeah, get a life!**

**Mother: OK...here we are at school. Remember, Amy...make me proud and do well on that exam.!**

**Amy:(Lorna gets out of car, looking sad) Yeah, mom, whatever.**

**Narrator: How do you think Amy will do on her exam? It was a rough morning for her so far, wasn't it? It definitely was not a peaceful morning.**

**Let's watch the next scenerio...**

## **Skit # 2**

**Stage exactly the same as skit #1**

**Mother :Amy, I hope you studied your math last night.**

**Amy: I sure did, mom...I studied for hours. But I'm so nervous and worried...this exam is really important. And I do struggle with algebra. What if I forget everything?**

**Mother : Oh you won't. If you studied hard, and you try your best, that's all you can do. Come here for a minute...(puts hand on her head)Please God bless Amy with a good memory today...Bless her with calmness...and help her do her very best.  
Let's get into the car and go to school.**

**Amy: (looking much happier) OK, Mom, let's go.**

**(both get into car, as before...but this time, both put seat belts on)**

**....driving...**

**Mother:**(man sits on stage as before) Oh look at that poor man. He sits there every day. Please God Bless him today. I don't know what his needs are, but you do...please bless him and help him to get on the right track again soon.

**Amy:** Yes, please God, bless him.

**Mother:** Look at that woman walking along crying....(slams on the brake). I don't think she's even watching the traffic signs. Please God bless her today....keep her safe..and help her problems to somehow get more manageable for her.

**Amy :** Yes, God Please Bless her.

**Mother:** OK we're at school....good luck...and may God be with you and Bless you today!

**Amy:**...Thanks mom...see you later! God Bless you today, too!

**Mother:** Bye! (drives away)(Amy waves)

**Narrator:** Wasn't the 2<sup>nd</sup> skit so much better? Don't you think that Amy and her mother will both have a much more peaceful day because they have both received and given blessings?

We need to realize that some people like the poor man and the crying woman, that they passed in the car, may have no one else praying for them. So when you drive by and ask God to Bless them...that may be the only blessing they've ever gotten. And won't that help them and you?...more than complaining or yelling at them.

So let's all remember to bless more and complain less. Blessings are very important to those who give them and to those who receive them. They are an act of peace.

**Hang up sign...Seek Peace by Blessing**