

Our vision at GFC is that God would raise up a generation of Christians who have the **COURAGE** to stand, the **CONFIDENCE** to speak up, and the **HEART TO SACRIFICE** because they're committed to the TRUTH of God's Word, the MISSION of God's church, and the MERCY of God's Son – Jesus Christ.

**SURVIVING
THE
HOLIDAYS**
Sunday, Nov 11
10am – 12pm • Florence Café

Grieving?
Know someone who is?
When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.



GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

For many who've lost loved ones, the holidays are difficult. *Surviving the Holidays* is a one-time event intended to provide care & support for those dealing with grief this holiday season.

Nov 11 • 10am-12pm • \$5
graceky.org/events

WORSHIP & PRAYER NIGHT

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!"

NOV 15 | FLORENCE CAMPUS | 7-8:30PM

Worship & Prayer Night

On **Nov 15**, let's spend an evening **giving thanks to the Lord** together! GraceKids worship & childcare also offered for ages 10 & younger. **Register your kids by Sun, Nov 11 @**
graceky.org/events

**GRACE
SINGLES
FRIENDSGIVING**
Saturday, November 17
6pm in the Florence Café
graceky.org/singles



Grace Singles Friendsgiving

Join us for a time of fellowship & thanksgiving on **Sat, Nov 17**. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

Got children? Bring 'em along!
Register at **graceky.org/singles**

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS
MOVIE NIGHT**
Saturday, November 24
Florence Campus Café & Upper Auditorium
6-8:30pm
graceky.org/events

THE STAR

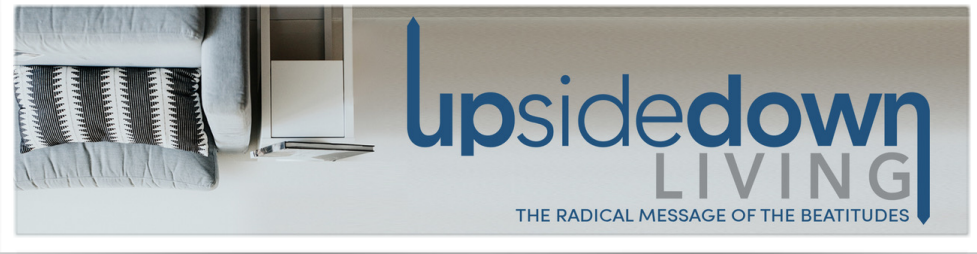

Grace Kids

• Family Christmas Movie •

On **Nov 24**, bring your family for a Family Christmas Movie, *The Star*! Holiday treats will be served!

6 – 8:30pm

More info @ graceky.org/events



Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9

Pastor Peter LaRuffa

November 4, 2018

I. Here's the thing with peacemakers...

A. Peacemakers are not peacekeepers!

Those who do everything they can to avoid conflict & keep the peace are peace-fakers.

Prov. 29:25 “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”

Those who move toward opportunities to bring about reconciliation are peacemakers.

Matt. 5:9 “Blessed are the **peacemakers...**”

B. Peacemakers are not popular!

What's so “upside-down” with Jesus declaring the Kingdom is for peacemakers? Peacemakers are rarely (if ever) given any honor or respect for doing their job. Sometimes they're among the most unpopular people in the room.

- Think about **a police officer** settling a domestic dispute.
- Think about **a sports official** breaking up a fight, or making a decision on a close call.

C. Peacemakers are not always prosperous!

Rom. 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

The call to live at peace with all people has two caveats attached to it:

“If possible...” implies it’s not always possible.

“...so far as it depends on you...” implies it’s not all up to you.

II. Here’s the thing with the Prince of Peace...

A. God made genuine, lasting peace with sinners like you and me.

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

B. God made peace with us, even when it was “unpopular.”

Phil. 2:5-8 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

C. God is always prosperous in making peace with us!

III. Here’s the thing for us, “the [children] of God”...

Matt. 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, **for they shall be called sons of God.**”

To some degree, and for better or worse, kids typically look like, act like, and strive to imitate their parents.

Rom. 12:20 “To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’”

Peace doesn’t always come easily or immediately, but it only takes a step in the direction to begin the peacemaking process with someone else.”

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- (1) Think of the last time you had an opportunity to resolve a conflict; either between you and someone else, or between two other people. What did you do? Why?
- (2) Can you be depended upon to make peace? Explain.
- (3) Pastor Peter said “When Kingdom people show mercy to those who are hurting, we paint a small picture of what King Jesus did for us.” How might you paint that picture this week?
- (4) Consider 2 Cor. 5:16-21. Is sharing the Gospel with others an example of peacemaking? Why or why not?
- (5) How can you take a step towards peace with someone this week?