

Hope Presbyterian Church
Adult Faith Formation Sermon-Based Bible Study

September 6, 2026

“Peacemaking”
#2 in the series *God on Film*

Scripture Texts (NIV)
Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:17-21



1. In the 2009 sports docu-drama “Invictus,” South African President Nelson Mandela, played by Morgan Freeman, faces the challenges of unifying his country, torn apart through the dismantling of apartheid. Despite pressure to disband the national rugby team to avoid further division, Mandela rallies support for the team in hopes of building unity and making peace.
 - Have you ever tried to make peace between the opposing parties?
 - What did you do? What was the outcome?
2. **Read Matthew 5:9.**

Jesus praised those he called “peacemakers” during a period known as Pax Romana, a time of relative peace in the region enforced through Rome’s military control.

 - How do you think they might have responded to making peace in their oppressive situation?
 - What’s the difference between peacemaking and peacekeeping?
3. **Read Romans 12:17–18.**

Paul urges the early Christians in Rome to “live at peace with everyone.”

 - What does he mean by “do what is right in the eyes of everyone”?
 - How do we make peace when reconciliation isn’t possible?
4. **Read Romans 12:19-21.**

Referencing teachings found in Deuteronomy and Proverbs, Paul reminds the Christians in Rome what peacemaking should look like.

 - How do you interpret the meaning of “you will heap burning coals on his head”?
 - What opportunities for peacemaking do you encounter every day?
5. “Invictus” ends with the South African Springbok team winning the 1995 Rugby World Cup and depicting fans abandoning their racial divide, at least for the moment. The Springboks would go on to win the national title three more times, most recently in 2023.
 - What is the role of forgiveness in peacemaking?
 - In what ways do we practice peacemaking at Hope? What more might we do?
6. How can we pray for you?