

Biblical Peacemaking - A Living Faith

Scripture continually has the ability to move persons into a different understanding of conscience. Such understanding can then lead us to a different social reality (more inclusive, less compelled to respect established boundaries between people as individuals and groups), and a new spiritual reality (as we find meaning in places other than material accumulation and domination over others and the natural world). Scripture shapes and leads us into the living out of our faith in new ways.

from Religious/social/economic/military violence → Compassion

I Kings 21—Naboth's vineyard	Jeremiah 7:1-7—"peace, peace"
Micah 4:1-4—swords to plowshares	John 4—woman at the well
Matthew 19:13-15—let the children come	Luke 9:51-56—don't nuke 'em
Romans 12:9-21—live peaceably with all	
Matthew 5:38-48—love your enemies; Matthew 13:24-30—parable of the weeds	
John 8:1-11—the woman caught in adultery; Luke 10:38-42—Mary/Martha	

from Clan/race/family → Inclusivity

Deuteronomy 10:17-19—orphan, widows, stranger	Matthew 15:21-28—Canaanite woman
Matthew 20:1-16—laborers in vineyard	Luke 8:19-21—my mother and brothers
Ephesians 2:11-21—"Christ is our peace"	
Luke 10:25-37—Good Samaritan; Luke 15:11-32—two lost sons	

from Reliance on self/power → Reliance on God

Deuteronomy 8:11-20—don't forget the Lord	Luke 4—temptation of Jesus
Judges 6—Gideon and too many soldiers	Matthew 16:24-26—save life/lose it

from Individualism → Individual within community

Genesis 4:17—Cain and Abel	I Corinthians 12—many gifts, one body
Luke 15:11-32—two lost sons	

from Materialism → Trust in God

Amos 5:12-14—hate evil, love good, establish justice	Matthew 6:25-34—lilies of the field
Luke 6:20-25—blessed are the poor	Luke 12:13-21—bigger barns

from Environment as resource → Environment as relationship

Genesis 2:7, 2:18ff—creation story	Leviticus 25:1-7—Sabbath rest for the land
Hosea 4:1-3—creation suffers	

from Religion → Living faith

Jeremiah 7:1-11—temple sermon	Matthew 15:1-9—tradition/justice
John 9—man born blind	Micah 6:6-8—love tenderly
Amos 5:18-21—those who look for the day of the Lord, let justice roll down	

According to scripture, there are four relationships in need of reconciliation: Our relationship with God, with ourselves, with others, and with the environment. We cannot experience the fullness of God's peace until we find peace in these basic relationships.

The scriptures noted above are by way of example and are not meant to be an exhaustive list.