



Resolving Everyday Conflict - Discussion Guide

Session 1: Face the Flames of Conflict

Passage: James 4:1-10

Introduction: Conflict is inevitable in a fallen world. Whether in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, even churches - all of us will experience conflict in our relationships at some point. And while conflicts can threaten to divide and destroy, God has given us a better way. In this introductory session of *Resolving Everyday Conflict*, we will consider the heart of every conflict and our foremost need to be reconciled to God.



Into the Word

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?” (v. 1)

What reasons do we often give for conflict in our relationships? How does James respond to this question? When does conflict turn sinful? **(pg. 16)**

Note: Sinful conflict is the bitter fruit that springs from the root of heart idolatry.

What is idolatry? Why does James describe idolatry as “adultery”? (v. 4)

Note: Idolatry is something that we want more than God in any particular moment - a desire that controls our lives. **(pg. 19)**

Consider: Matthew 6:24

How does James describe God’s grace for those who are facing conflict? (v. 6-10)

Note: Notice James’ emphasis on humility.



Into the Heart

“But [God] gives more grace” (v. 6)

When in your life have you seen a desire grow into an idol? How have these desires led to conflict in your relationships? **(pg. 15)**

Note: An out-of-control desire is something you’re willing to sin to obtain or sin if it’s denied (i.e. control, success, respect, pleasure, comfort, etc.)

What will motivate us to pursue reconciliation with those we are in conflict? **(pg. 22)**

Note: We only pursue reconciliation as our hearts are changed by the Gospel.



Into the World

Think about a recent conflict in your life: What was the trigger? When did it turn sinful? What were the destructive effects? **(pg. 21)**

Read Ephesians 4:32 Is reconciliation worth the effort?

How does conflict enable us to bear witness to Christ? **(pg. 20)**

Note: Every conflict is an opportunity to live out the Gospel.