



Sermon Discussion Guide

Conflict - Tim Knipp

May 1, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Share a story about a conflict that you had where the point of disagreement may not have been the actual problem...what was the “thing behind the thing” in this conversation?
- Who is a person that you can think of who handles conflict well? What are some qualities that they have that helps them to handle conflict?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Take time to re-read James 4:1-12
- What does James believe is the source of human conflict?
- What are some other biblical stories that you can think of in which human desire created conflict?
- What is the one quality of God that James states that we are not supposed to imitate? What is the relationship between judgment and slander?
- Discuss the different ways that James lists to keep our desires aligned with God's?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.



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- What are barriers to keeping our desires aligned with God's in today's world?
- Pick a common point of conflict in today's world and together discuss what is the "thing behind the thing"
- What are some reasons that people are quick to judge others in our society?
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Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Read this passage and reflect on what it means to keep your desires aligned with God. Pray and make intentional steps to grow in this area this week.
- Make it a goal this week to not gossip or slander others, record the times and topics where you feel the urge to gossip and reflect on what may be the underlying causes of this.
- If you find yourself judging someone else this week, make it a goal to pray and give the judgment to God. Take note of how this exercise impacts your life and relationships.

Time of Prayer