

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

(From Resolving Everyday Conflict Participant Guide)

1. Story of conflict
2. Read Philipians 2:4. What are the two clear commands here?
3. What happens when someone constantly makes his or her interests more important than the interests of others?
4. What happens when someone constantly makes his or her interests less important than others?
5. What may seem unnatural about putting the interests of others on the same level of importance as our own?
6. Read James 4:1-2. According to this why do legitimate disagreements turn into fights and quarrels?
7. Why do you think James uses "war" as the image to describe out-of-control desires?
8. In real-life, where have you observed a simple disagreement evolve into a full-blown, relationship-damaging conflict? (Ground rule: The conflict you talk about cannot be with someone who is present, or someone who is not here, but we may know. It's also best to not describe an unresolved conflict with a spouse or family member (unless it has a happy ending!).
9. What was the conflict about?
10. How did legit interests eventually become selfish desires (by one or both parties)?
11. What emotions were expressed in the middle of the conflict by people involved?
12. How did the dispute end? Was there a clear winner or loser?
13. What happened to the relationship as a result of the conflict?
14. Go deeper on your own this week. There are four daily Bible studies to do before next Sunday/Teaching Session in the participant's guide.

PRAYER:

CE WITH SELF • PEACE WITH OTHERS • PEACE WITH MA

# FACING CONFLICT

JAMES 4

Have you had tense conversations or difficulties with an upset neighbour, a family member, an overbearing boss, or even something more serious with someone you haven't spoken to for years? Relationships are the only eternal thing you can influence and take with you into eternity. The bible has great wisdom about conflict and relationships. It says we are to be rooted and grounded in love, but this requires maturity, and a willingness to grow. Growth requires a community of faith and the gifts working together.

This Sunday we are starting a special discipleship teaching series focused on "Peace with Others". We will be using the Resolving Everyday Conflict study from Peacemaker Ministries. We will explore more than eight teachings on how to define conflict, determining legitimate issues, harmful responses, and moving towards forgiveness. This is about learning to respond differently to conflict than our default settings.

The next two months could change your whole experience of Christianity and life!

## SETTING THE TABLE

Why Personal Peacemaking Matters and The Source of Conflict, Why Study Peacemaking?

**TWO OBSERVATIONS**—two areas of life will come up in this:

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**MAIN COURSE: SPARKS, FUEL, FIRE, HOPE**

- **The Source of Conflict, The Spark**

- God-given \_\_\_\_\_  
We are called to unity in Christ, not uniformity (1 Corinthians 12).

- Misunderstandings due to personality, preferences, priorities

- Competition...

- Sin...

- **The Enemy**

- **The Gasoline**

- James 4:1-2a 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have

- Idol progression: I Desire - I Demand - I Judge - I Punish

- Power of kingdom detachment

- “Along the way, in this journey with Christ, we get attached to (literally “nailed to”) behaviors, habits, things, and people in an unhealthy way...I love my home, my car, my books, Geri (Anne), our four daughters, our church, our comforts, and my good health. Like you, I rarely realize how attached I am to something until (it is removed) or God removes it.” (132 EHS).

- Idol revealing questions

- **Fire - When Conflicts Destroy**

**TAKE OUT**

- The Hope of the Gospel

- The Power of the Gospel—how it changes lives