

HOW TO HANDLE CONFLICT

James 4:1-12

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE HEART OF CONFLICT
2. THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR SITUATION
3. THE HOPE FOR PEACE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Conflict is a part of everyone's life. Where are you currently experiencing the most conflict in your life? Was anything from James 4:1-12 helpful for you?
3. Pride is the "cause beneath the cause" of the unhealthy conflict we find ourselves in. Unfortunately, pride can be very difficult for us to spot in ourselves. What are some ways that God's Word has worked as a "mirror" and helped you see pride in yourself? How do we deal with pride?
4. Our only hope for the peace we all desire is the grace that is extended to us in Jesus. What are some unique attributes about an identity that is founded on nothing but the grace of Jesus? How might these attributes make it possible to handle conflict well?
5. James doesn't give us a list of "5 techniques for handling conflict". Instead, he shows us how God's grace can cut off conflict at the source. However, sometimes it is helpful to have practical tools for when we engage in conflict. Do you have any "rules of engagement" you adhere to when you find yourself in a conflict?
6. **EXERCISE:** Think through a specific conflict that you've recently been a part of. Even if you weren't the instigator of the conflict, look at yourself and trace your emotions back to the source. What desire in you was unmet or upset in this conflict? Did pride play a role in how you responded? Is there anything you would have done differently based on what you learned from James 4:1-12?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: The more you grasp the grace of God the more it will humble your prideful heart and satisfy your hungry heart. And when you have a heart like that, you can handle conflict.