

To Resolve
Wk 6
Review and Summary

Week 1: Dealing With and Resolving Conflict

Main Point: In order for us to be able to resolve conflict we have to value the person over winning the conflict

Biblical Explanation: *Luke 22:39-45*, As Jesus wrestled in conflict over whether or not to die for us on the cross, he pushed aside his own will for that of the father. He valued his heavenly fathers will over that of his own

Sub-points: Elements that keep us from valuing people over winning
Selfishness: "I want what I want, no matter what the cost"
Pride: "What will people think of me if I back down"

Suggested Questions:

1. What was the last conflict you were involved in, what happened, why? Has it been resolved?,
2. Did Joseph live out these principals in Gen. 39,
 - Yes in the fact that he was more concerned with God's will than his own or that of Potiphar's wife
 - No in the fact that he wasn't as concerned with Potiphars wife (the person) than God's will

Week 2: Communication Keys to Resolving Conflict

Main Point: Within a conflict there is not only right and wrong things to say, but also right and wrong ways to say them.

Biblical Explanation: *James 3:10*, Far too often are words and tone escalate the conflict rather than resolve it. James warns us that blessings and curses should not come from the same lips.

Sub-points: Three ways to communicate

1. Will without words, most of the time not a good thing. When we choose not to use our words we are missing out on one of the most unique tools and gifts that God gives us. Few examples where touch carries more weight than words (Mk. 3:10)
2. Words without will, saying things (apologizing) without meaning it only escalates conflict in the long run and does not resolve it (Eph. 5:6)
3. Words and Will is the best and most complete way to communicate when resolving conflict. Prov. 15:1 clearly teaches this truth and 1 Kings 12:4-10 clearly communicates it.

Suggested Questions:

1. Out of the three ways to communicate when working through conflict, which one do usually choose and why?
2. Empty words is one of the most common choice when dealing with conflict, why do you think that is (give a reason)
 - a. Have you ever used empty words, describe what happened.
 - b. Did you get away with it, yes or no, why or why not?
 - c. Where is the relationship now?
3. What do you think would have happened if the king had listened to the other advice he was given? Who would you have listened to in the story and why?
4. What needs to happen in our lives in order for us to value the person we're in conflict with over winning an argument (our pride and selfishness) *We need to see the person the way Jesus see's them*

- a. Is that worth it to us
- b. What has to happened for it to be worth it to us
 - i. *We need to be a real believer*
 - ii. *We need to want to*
 - iii. *We need to see how Jesus see's people (word and prayer)*

Week 3: Jacob and Esau

Main Point: With as much dysfunction as this family had, it is a miracle in itself that the conflict between the two brothers was resolved. There were two main reasons the conflict was resolved

1. Time, there was a large amount of time that took place while the brothers were separated. This gave them some room to grow and mature.
2. They both encountered God. Although we are unsure of Esau's encounter it only seems possible that he would have had to have an encounter with God in order to forgive his brother. Jacobs encounter with God is clearly seen for us in Gen.32:22-32.

Biblical Explanation: Gen. 25-32 gives us the story of Jacob and Esau

Sub-points: When Jacob prepared to meet Esau, he planned for the worst and prayed for the best. This is key for us as well as we attempt to resolve conflict.

Suggested Questions:

1. Can you think of a time where you've been in either Esau or Jacob's shoes? Talk about it and how you reacted and what might be a possible way to resolve it.
 - a. Favoritism, maybe you were showed favoritism over someone else
 - b. Manipulation, maybe you've been manipulated by someone or something
 - c. Lied to or about
 - d. Wanted to kill someone for what they did to you
 - e. Stolen from
2. Many times when God is bringing us to the place where we need to resolve something he does it through trials, can you think of any trials that you may have been through that looking back you can see your better because of it?
3. Jacob prepared and prayed as he went to encounter his brother Esau, what are some ways that when faced with resolving a conflict or issue you prayed for the best and planned for the worse?
4. What are some ways we try to "fix" things without God's proper time or procedure?
5. How do gifts sometimes communicate, pro's and con's?

Week 4: A Proper Perspective

Main Point: One of the most difficult yet important steps to take when resolving conflict is to willingly take on the ability to put ourselves in someone else's shoes. It is only as we can see the issue from the other person's perspective and seeing the issue from God's perspective that we can take steps to resolve the issue(s) or conflict.

Biblical Explanation: In *Mark 10:35-45* we see that James and John have a skewed perspective of the kingdom of God we also see that the other disciples have a skewed perspective of James and John. It is only by the ability Jesus has to understand their skewed perspective that he teaches them the proper perspective.

Suggested Questions:

1. Why do you think it's so hard to see things from somebody else's perspective?
2. What sorts of things make up the lenses we see people, situations, and issues?
 - a. Is that ok, *yes it's part of your life and who you are. The danger comes when you refuse to see from someone else's perspective. Remember that seeing from someone else's perspective is different than agreeing with their perspective*
 - b. Is it possible to see from someone else's perspective and not agree with them?
 - i. When this happens can you continue to value the person over your will?
3. Before this issue escalates we see Jesus gather the groups together, why do you think it's good to have someone mediate when there's a disagreement?
 - a. Do you always need somebody, should you?
 - b. How do you know if you need a mediator or don't?
4. Whose lens should we always strive to see life through?
 - a. Why?
 - b. How do we do that?

Week 5: The benefits of resolved conflict

Main Point: The benefits of our conflict with sin resolved by Jesus sacrifice on the cross

Main Biblical Explanation: Isaiah 53:1-9

Suggested Questions

1. As you stand right now, who is resolving your sin conflict with God?
 - a. How do you *know* that?
 - b. If you are attempting to resolve your own conflict with God what can you do about it?
 - i. What does that look like?
2. What are some of the benefits you can see to resolving conflict?
 - a. Have you been through any of these?
 - b. What were they like, what happened?
3. What are some of the consequences that you'll experience if you choose not resolve conflict?
 - a. Have you been through any of these?
 - b. What were they like, what happened?
4. How did Jesus resolve our conflict with God?