

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022



ICEBREAKER

Name 1 thing that was memorable from your week.

QUESTIONS

- Without names, share a conflict you've experienced lately. Did you have one on the way to group?
- What are some environments that breed conflict for you? ([pressure at work](#), [finances](#), [raising kids](#), [overloaded schedules](#), etc.)
- Spend a few minutes discussing the following:
 - Take turns answering: "When I am at my worst during an argument, I usually _____."
 - How good are you at conflict resolution?
 - What has helped you personally in navigating the difficult waters of conflict?

READ

Patrick mentioned 4 common bad strategies for managing conflict:

- Win/Lose: Somebody has to be right
- Avoidant: Assumes that differences are always bad because they might lead to a relational breakdown
- Giving In: People pleaser, difficult to know when to give in and when to stand firm

- Passive: Waiting for the other person to just ____ "change, realize, make amends, or stop it"

QUESTIONS

- Which one of the four do you most align with?
- Patrick said, "The problem with these strategies is that you become the victim of another person's willingness or ability to resolve the conflict."
- How proactive are you in pursuing peace in the midst of conflict?
- What would motivate you to turn toward or approach the other person in times of conflict?

READ

Matthew 5:9 and James 4:1

QUESTIONS

- How does our relationship with Jesus help us become peacemakers? *(As we grow in our relationship with Jesus we change. Our character, values, and behaviors become more like Jesus. We gain a new perspective through the lens of Jesus.)*
- Why is it more important to focus on our own hearts during conflicts than on who is most at fault?
- What steps could we take to have an inward focus during conflicts? *(Start with our core and ask what is really going on there. Examine our desires or motives or determine what it is we really want)*
- How we engage others in a disagreement plays an important role in either escalating or de-escalating the conflict. Which of the following do you tend to struggle with: tone, truth, or timing? Why?

READ

James 4:2-3

QUESTION

- How can you take your conflict to God? *(Pray and ask God for timing, words, tone, and what is really important, ask God to give you compassion and grace toward the other person)*

READ

Romans 12:17-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

QUESTIONS

- What do these passages say about who to give our conflict to? And Why?

- What do you find challenging about these passages?
- If you applied your learning from this week's message, how would next week be different?

PRAYER: God, thank you for teaching us how to be a peacemaker and giving us the message of reconciliation. Help us come to you in our conflicts knowing that you see more about the situation and our motives than we do. Help us practice soft answers that calm tempers and offer kindness and grace to each other. In Jesus' Name – Amen.

LEADERS: Continue to encourage someone from your group to share their story next week. A great way to start this conversation is to consider the following questions: How did they find RPC? Where are they from? Describe their family. What is something few people know about you? Describe a person or event that influenced who you are today.