

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



FIGHTING FAIR
CHAD HEROLD
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

WELCOME / ICEBREAKER

- Leader - please welcome new group members with brief introductions.
- Leader - start by sharing your story in this format next week. Share 3 positive and 3 negative things that have had an impact on who you are today. Every week encourage someone to share a little bit of their story.
- Would you say conflict in a relationship is a good thing, why or why not?

READ

The title of this new series is called *Fighting Fair* and we'll be unpacking how to fight fair in all our relationships in life. Looking at the creation story found in Genesis 2:18-24 we see this beautiful picture and harmony of God and man, and man and woman. Everyone is happy but then comes Genesis Chapter 3. We see how the devil deceives Adam and Eve and lures them to disobey God. Because of their disobedience to God, sin enters the world, and tension forms between man and women and creates a separation between man and God. It is because of sin that every relationship has conflict.

QUESTIONS

- How did your family of origin resolve conflict? What aspects would you like to incorporate into your relationships? What aspects would you like to avoid?

- What are some causes of conflict in our relationships? (Personalities, expectations, gender, communication style, values, family of origin, etc.)
- When it comes to conflict how do you respond, fight or flight? How has your response led to healthy conflict resolution? (Neither response leads to healthy conflict resolution. Fighting in anger can result in unwanted language and heightened emotions that intensify the situation. Avoiding the flight can result in a buildup of bitterness or anger often leading to an explosion).

READ

James 1:19 and Proverbs 18:13

QUESTIONS

- How do these verses encourage you or challenge you in terms of fighting fair?
- What is the difference between fighting and sparring? (Fighting is to destroy the opponent; Sparring is to develop the relationship through healthy conflict resolution)
- How do you feel about the following quote? “Conflict is not sin but how you respond to it might be.” - Todd Wagner

READ

Ephesians 4:26-27 and Proverbs 15:1

QUESTIONS

- How do these passages inform your timing in conflict resolution? (We don't want to give the devil a foothold in our relationships so the key is promptness to our restoration. Call on a timeout and agree on when to check back in with each other.)
- What would you say are not good places to fight? (e.g., In front of the TV, in the car, in public, in different rooms)
- From Chad's message, what is the difference between a corner and a referee? (Your corner is the people who have “your” back, those who encourage, teach or support you such as a friend, parent or relative. A referee is someone neutral who can enforce fairness in the heat of the moment.)
- When you have a conflict that you cannot resolve, who could be helpful? (A referee like a mentor, counselor or pastor.)
- Chad said, “Many disputes are around looking at the same issue from different perspectives.” What are the two perceived concerns that drive most fights? (Perceived threat or perceived neglect. Perceived threat is one person feels unjustly

blamed or controlled and perceived neglect is one person feels neglected or that “you don’t care.”)

- Conflict is inevitable but the desire is not to fight for fighting sake but instead to learn sparring more effectively. Read Ephesians 4:2-3. What steps will you put into practice from what you’ve learned today?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: How can the group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

LEADERS: Encourage your group to attend a Town Hall, if they haven’t already. As part of the next phase in our Senior Pastor search, they’ll have the opportunity to hear directly from our candidate Chad Bruegman followed by a brief Q&A. Richmond Campus Town Hall is Monday, February 12th at 6:30pm in the Worship Center and the West End Campus Town Hall is Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30pm in the Worship Center. To register and hear Chad’s story, visit rpc.me/pastor.