

Cultivate Discussion Guide

The Truth About Conflict June 8 and 9, 2019

If you missed this weekend's message, view it at cultivate.sc/discussion

Tips for leaders:

- Prepare for group. Read the questions and choose the topics you believe will lead to REAL conversation.
 - It's okay if you don't answer every question. Your goal is to discuss what's most meaningful to your group.
 - Close in prayer – using our prompt or your own. We ALL need Jesus to help us live out what we're learning!
 - To help everyone follow along, ask them to print the Discussion Guide or pull it up on their phone.
 - If questions remain unanswered, encourage women to work through them as they cultivate God's word on their own throughout the week.
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Reflect: Think about this weekend's message. Was there a moment, word or verse that stood out to you? Did God speak to you through the message? How did you feel convicted, challenged or encouraged?

Cultivate Truth: It's been said that, "hurt people, hurt people." As Christians, it's not the absence of conflict that sets us apart, it's how we handle conflict when faced with it. While we may have been wounded by conflict in our past, we are called to live on the side of grace—because grace saved us from the greatest conflicts we'll ever face: sin and death. Saved people should save people.

#1: Which best describes you: easily offended or full of grace?

- **How does that position impact the amount of conflict you face in your life and relationships?**
- **What would it take for you to choose grace more?**

Pastor Matt reminded us that the gospel is neither legalism nor license. Legalism can propel us toward unattainable perfection, attempting to earn our status as "good Christians" by doing all the right things, usually for all the wrong reasons.

License, on the other hand, can convince us that no matter what we do, God approves - which can stall our growth and keep us from becoming the person He's created us to be.

#2: Which do you tend to lean toward - legalism or license?

- **What shaped that perspective in you - upbringing, experience or personality?**
- **If you lean toward legalism - how has the gospel of grace freed you?**
- **If you lean toward license - how has the truth of God's word changed you?**

#3: For whom are you the best version of yourself? (eg. husband, kids, family, boss, coworkers, people at church, strangers, etc.)

- **Are you being REAL with them?**
- **What motivates you to give them your best vs. others?**
- **We all have bad days, but what needs to change in your attitude, habits or choices so you can be your best for those who matter most to you?**

#4: Read Galatians 2:20

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Is there something you know God wants you to do - based on the truth of His word and the conviction of the Holy Spirit - but you're not?

- **What would it take for you to die to self and live for Christ?**

Pastor Matt encouraged us that conflict resolution is best done in community, with honesty and humility, out of a desire for unity. That means, when we have relational conflict, we should address it with the person one on one. If we're telling EVERYONE about our conflict with SOMEONE we're only creating more conflict - and being unkind.

#5: What is your first instinct when faced with conflict?

- a. Shut down (passive)**
- b. Fight back (aggressive)**
- c. Try to win others to your side (passive aggressive)**

#6: What do you find the greater struggle?

- a. Honesty (telling the truth)**
- b. Humility (admitting you're wrong)**
- c. Unity (finding common ground/compromise)**

#7: If the biblical way to handle conflict is to be direct, honest, humble and pursue unity, what are some things you need to do differently? Be specific.

#8: Are you facing a relational conflict today?

- **Is it a matter of gospel truth - the only hill worth dying on?**
- **If not, what steps can you take to move toward resolution OR can you surrender on the side of grace?**

The Cultivate Podcast: On Episode 6, Tammy and Melody welcome Lisa Bevere for a REAL conversation on HOW TO...Be Bold and Not Be a B----. Lisa challenged us to be women who are "strong in our convictions, but gentle in our opinions." **Share a time you had to stand up for something you believed in while still choosing kindness.**

Cultivate Prayer: Close with prayer in the way you feel is most needed based on your discussion. Do you need a quiet time of confession? Can you stop and praise God for His loving kindness and grace? Do you need to ask for courage to resolve conflict in a healthy way? You could even break up into small groups to pray and encourage one another more specifically.