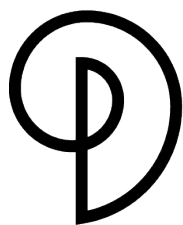
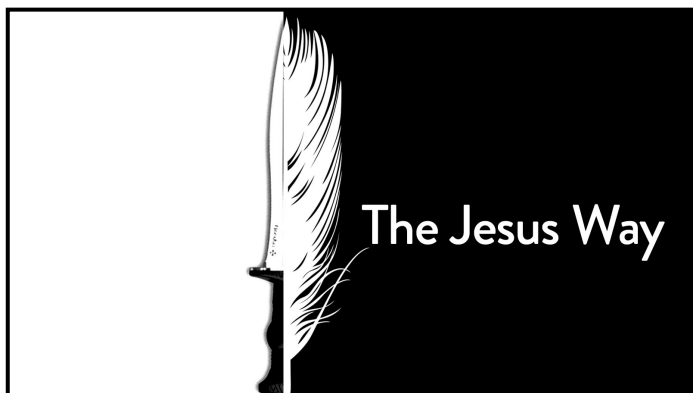


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



The Jesus Way | Conflict

June 1 & 2, 2024

The early church dealt with a fair amount of conflict. Paul addresses that conflict by calling for gentleness and by reminding us that we belong to the Lord and that God is near. How can we show more gentleness as we navigate conflicts in our churches, in our homes, and in our relationships?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Apostle Paul had planted a church in Philippi: a place where Greek culture smashed headlong into Jewish culture, creating all kinds of conflict. The book of Philippians is a letter that Paul wrote to this church in part to address a power struggle between two women who were involved in a conflict that developed from a place of pride, selfish ambition, and a spirit of rivalry as each attempted to increase her influence over the church. Paul tells them - and us - that the way through is to “have the same mind in Christ”: to embody Christ’s attitude of humility, servanthood, and complete sacrifice for the good of the gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where would you rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is “avoid conflict at all costs” and 10 is “always looking for a fight”? Share a story that illustrates your answer. Also share stories about the extremes: Have you ever been in a situation where you landed at a 1 or a 2? How about a 9 or a 10? What factors pushed you to the extremes?
- Paul sets the table on how this conflict between Euodia and Syntyche is to be resolved: ***Stop rejoicing in your arguments and start rejoicing in the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord who has been amazingly, even foolishly, generous to you.*** How has the Lord been amazingly generous to YOU? How do you express your joy in response to God’s generosity? Share about somebody you know who has contagious joy. What is the source of their joy? Re-read Philippians 4:8. How does thinking about these things bring you peace (and maybe even joy) in the midst of conflict?
- Paul sent Timothy to help Euodia and Syntyche resolve their conflict. When have you needed a “Timothy” to help you resolve a conflict? When have you been “Timothy” for someone else?

CHALLENGE: When you experience conflict: Know that the Lord is near. Trust that the Holy Spirit is working in you and in the other. Be gentle and choose to humble yourself. Recognize the God-given value in the other. Seek a third voice to help with resolution and reconciliation.