

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Talking About the Message Start Sharing & . NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.

Open: The church needs to be unified. But the church is like a family, and like every family, every church will have personal conflicts and disagreements. Strong, intimate relationships, combined with spiritual warfare, can make the disagreements more intense.

1. We must learn not to take things personally but to take them how? **A.** Spiritually. And take disagreements to the Lord. **1Peter 5:6-7**
2. What can some disagreements signify? **A.** Caring and mutual concern.
3. Doctrinally & practically, lines must be drawn. But where do we draw the line? **A.** Saying: “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things charity (or love).”
4. The danger is not that disagreements exist, but the danger lies in what? **A.** How we react and respond. We should celebrate diversity of opinion in our fellowship. Point: Stop being selfish.
5. What things in the church might cause disagreements? **A.** Battles over positions, power, & prominence. Also, jealousies, ambition & anger. (I would add, misunderstandings)
6. What are three things that can take down a church from within? **A.** Grudges, resentment & bitterness. **Heb 12:12-15** Point: Disagreements may not destroy the church, but they will destroy some believers.
7. Why are there disagreements & why is it hard for people to get along? **A.** **James 4:1** Desires for pleasure. (NLT says, “Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?”)
8. What should the church be for people? **A.** A place of refuge and help for those who need Jesus.

Keys & Principles for Conflict Resolution from Matt 18.

Point: There needs to be repentance and reconciliation in order for there to be conflict resolution. We must to pursue peace and holiness.

1. Cultivate an attitude of humility. 1-14 We need to come to Jesus as a small child/in humility. **Pro 3:34, 1Peter 5:5, Phil 2:5-9, Matt 23:12, Mark 9:35**
2. Handle the disagreement biblically & spiritually. **Step 1:** v15 Go to the person alone. Address the issue face to face, not through text, email or social media. And do it quickly – don’t let the issue fester too long. Memories are short. Humility & love are essential. What should we not do? **A.** Gossip & slander. What should be our goal in the interaction? **A.** Not to win, but to win them over. **Gal 6:1-2**
Step 2: v16 Take one or two others with you. What must the “others” be? **A.** Spiritual, mature, biblically sound and independent. **Step 3:** v17 Tell the church leadership. This is often the first step people take, but step 3 should only be taken after taking steps 1&2. It may be necessary to ask a person to leave the church as part of church discipline. **Heb 12:13**
3. **Binding & Loosing 18:18-20** This speaks of authority. What are two things that church does? **A.** The church binds sin in its midst and looses forgiveness. **Phil 2:1-4**
Spurgeon Saying: “Right when you realize you’ve got humility, you’ve lost it.”

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 10

discussion | study 24470

Handling Personal Conflicts Biblically

Acts 15:36-41 & Matt 18:1-20

Pastor Ed Taylor