"Resolving Conflict God's Way, Part 1"

(James 4:1–3)

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's sermon? Was there anything that particularly challenged or convicted you?

2. Read James 4:1. Why do you think conflicts are so common, even among Christians? What are some of the most common causes of conflict in our marriages, families, and churches?

3. In the sermon, we saw that even the Early Church experienced quarrels and divisions (**1 Corinthians 1:10–12**). Why is it important to remember that no church is perfect?

4. Read James 4:1 again. According to James, where does the real source of our conflicts come from? Why is it so much easier to blame someone else than to examine our own hearts and lives?

5. Read Matthew 7:3–5. What does Jesus teach us about dealing with our own sins before confronting someone else's? How might following this principle change the way we handle disagreements?

6. In the sermon, we learned that even when someone else is mostly responsible for a conflict, we are still responsible for our own sinful responses. Why is it important to acknowledge and repent of our own part rather than focusing entirely on the other person's faults?

7. Read James 4:1–2. James says that sinful desires are waging war within us. How can something we strongly desire—even something good—become sinful when we don't get what we want?

8. Think about the examples from the sermon, such as wanting a clean house, obedient children, or a spouse who meets our expectations. How can our reactions when these desires go unmet reveal what is really going on in our hearts?

9. Read James 4:2. James connects unfulfilled desires with fighting, quarreling, and even murder. How can unchecked anger grow into more serious sin? What should we do when we first recognize sinful anger in our hearts?

10. Read James 4:2–3. What two problems does James identify with our prayer lives? Why do we sometimes try to solve personal/relational problems ourselves instead of first going to God?

11. James warns us about praying with selfish motives. What is the difference between asking God to change a difficult situation simply for our own comfort, and asking Him to be glorified through that situation?