



Small Group Guide: The Enemy Within

Series: Resolving Conflict God's Way

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by asking God to reveal areas where pride may be hindering peace in your relationships and to give you humility to address conflict biblically.

ICEBREAKER

Share a time when you avoided a conflict hoping it would resolve itself. What happened?

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- James 4:1-10
- Romans 12:18
- Genesis 4:6-7 (Cain and Abel)
- Proverbs 4:23

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Nate taught that conflict doesn't begin with difficult people or circumstances—it begins in our own hearts. When we allow pride to rule instead of God, we create division and destruction. The path to peace requires humility, submitting to God first, and allowing His grace to flow through us toward others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

1. **The Heart Check:** Pastor Nate said, "Conflict is really you or I not getting what we want." How does this definition challenge your typical view of conflict?
2. **Two Kingdoms:** What does it mean practically that "conflict exposes two kingdoms—yours and God's"? Can you identify a recent conflict where you were fighting to be "king"?
3. **The Mirror Principle:** How is Scripture like a mirror? Why is it tempting to use God's Word to fix others instead of examining ourselves?

Going Deeper

1. **Pride vs. Humility:** Review the characteristics of pride mentioned in the sermon (refuses to listen, assumes motives, demands justice, etc.). Which of these do you struggle with most?
2. **Cain vs. David:** Both Cain and David sinned, but they responded differently when confronted. What made the difference? How can we cultivate a "David heart" when we're wrong?
3. **The Conviction/Condemnation Distinction:** Pastor Nate said, "Conviction says you're loved too much to stay this way." How does understanding this difference change how you respond to the Holy Spirit's correction?

Personal Application

1. **Relationship Inventory:** Is there a relationship in your life right now where pride is preventing reconciliation? What would humility look like in that situation?
2. **The Submission Question:** What does it practically look like to "submit to God" before addressing a conflict with someone else?
3. **Grace Capacity:** Pastor Nate taught that when we humble ourselves, God gives "greater grace." Have you experienced this? How does receiving God's grace help you extend grace to others?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Conflict begins in the heart, not with circumstances or people
- ✓ Pride is the root sin underneath most conflicts

- ✓ Always get God in the middle of it—prayer changes perspective
- ✓ Humility is a choice before it becomes a feeling
- ✓ Spirit-filled believers should be the quickest to repent, apologize, and forgive
- ✓ Forgiveness is an eviction notice for the enemy
- ✓ Grace is not just God's forgiveness but also God's power to do what our flesh cannot

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge: The Heart Audit

DAILY: Before addressing any conflict or tension, ask yourself

- "Who is sitting on the throne of my heart right now—me or God?"
- "Am I seeking to win or to reconcile?"
- "What would honor Christ in this situation?"

SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

1. **Identify One Conflict:** Write down one unresolved conflict you're currently facing (marriage, family, work, church, etc.)
2. **Pray First:** Before taking any action, spend time in prayer
 - Ask God to reveal any pride in your heart
 - Pray for the other person (not that God fixes them, but for reconciliation)
 - Ask for greater grace to forgive and extend mercy
3. **Take the Initiative:** If the Holy Spirit convicts you of your part in the conflict
 - Reach out to that person this week
 - Own your part without bringing up their faults
 - Seek reconciliation, not vindication
4. **Practice Immediate Humility:** The next time you're in a disagreement (especially in marriage)
 - Stop trying to win
 - Ask yourself, "Am I more concerned about being right or about the relationship?"
 - Choose to apologize first, even if you're only 10% wrong
5. **Scripture Memory:** Memorize James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but

gives grace to the humble."

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- What conflict did you identify that needs God's intervention?
- Did you pray for that person this week? What happened in your heart?
- Were you able to humble yourself in any disagreement this week?
- What is one way you saw pride show up in your life this week?
- How can we pray for you regarding conflict in your life?

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray together for:

- Humility to see our own hearts clearly
- Courage to repent and apologize where needed
- Greater grace to forgive those who have hurt us
- Healing and reconciliation in broken relationships
- The church to be known as peacemakers in our culture

Specific Prayer: Have each person share one relationship where they need God's grace to bring peace. Pray specifically for each situation.

CLOSING THOUGHT

"The greatest miracle God may perform today isn't changing someone else—it's changing you."

LEADER NOTES

- Create a safe environment where people can be honest about their struggles with pride
- Be prepared to share your own examples of conflicts where you had to humble yourself
- Don't let the group turn into a gossip session about "difficult people"—keep the focus on personal responsibility
- If someone shares about a serious ongoing conflict, offer to pray with them individually after the group
- Remind the group that this is a process—we're all learning to walk in humility