

# Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of June 9 - 15, 2019

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## Main Thought and Passages:

God gives us the necessary grace and wisdom to handle relational conflicts appropriately through the truth of His word and the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Scripture instructs us that one of the keys to navigating conflict is to first pause and listen, then speak kindly while clarifying the issue. This helps to defuse anger from both sides. Our heart should be to approach the other person with humility and empathy, seeking to bring peace and reconciliation. Although we should neither purposely look for conflict, nor avoid all conflict, it is inevitable that we will experience relational conflict. This is because we live in a fallen world and are each uniquely created by God with different perspectives.

*"...Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20 ESV)*

*"A gentle answer will calm a person's anger, but an unkind answer will cause more anger." (Proverbs 15:1 NCV)*

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV)*

*"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink...' <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:17-21 ESV)*

## Reflection

- From the main thought and passages above, share something that caught your attention.
- When it comes to conflict, do you tend to face it head on or flee from it? Why (e.g. the way you were raised, a life experience that shaped you, lessons learned)?

## Application

- From the main thought and passages above (slow to speak, slow to listen, slow to anger, seeking clarity, spirit of humility, spirit of empathy), which do you find most difficult to apply when navigating a relational conflict? What steps will you take to grow in this area?

## Prayer

- Pray for each other to continue to grow in a spirit of peace, patience, and wisdom.
- Pray for God to bring a prompt resolution and peace to any relational conflict that individual group members may be currently facing.