

Small Group Guide: “How To Reduce Conflict”

Opening Question: If there were no traffic laws for a day, what unconventional rules would you set for driving? Share a funny story or an experience related to traveling abroad if you have one!

Opening Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank You for gathering us here today. As we dive into Your Word and discuss the importance of humility and harmony in our lives, we ask for open hearts and minds. Help us to be more like Jesus in our thoughts, actions, and relationships. We pray for clarity and understanding as we learn together. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Key Takeaways:

1. Happiness is not based on circumstances but on God's sovereignty and our relationship with Him.
2. Harmony in relationships is essential for happiness, and harmony is rooted in humility.
3. Pride leads to conflict and chaos, whereas humility paves the way for peace and understanding.
4. Acting like Jesus (our greatest example of humility and service) helps us to reduce conflict and improve our relationships.
5. Submitting to God and emulating Christ's servant-like attitude is essential for spiritual growth and relational harmony.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Philippians 2:1-2.** This passage portrays a picture of harmony. How does this description challenge or affirm your current view on relationships?
2. **Read Philippians 2:3.** In this verse, we are instructed to do nothing out of selfish ambition. Share a situation where selfish ambition might have caused conflict. How could humility have altered the outcome?
3. **Read Proverbs 13:10.** This verse states that pride leads to conflict. Reflect on a personal experience where you've seen this truth in action. How did you navigate it?
4. Pastor Dan mentioned that humility is key to reducing conflicts in life. Describe some ways a person could practically apply humility in difficult interactions?
5. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** In this passage, we're called to have the same attitude as Jesus Christ. What are some specific ways you can emulate Jesus' humility in your life and relationships?
6. Discuss the significance of “bowing your knee” in every decision and relationship as a form of daily submission and surrender to Christ. How would this practice transform your interactions and relationships?
7. Pastor Dan emphasized the importance of serving others, even when it's painful or undeserved. Why is this difficult for most people to do, and how can this group support each other in adopting this Christ-like mindset?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one relationship in your life where there is ongoing conflict. Intentionally practice humility this week by actively listening and valuing the other person's perspective.
2. Choose a day to serve someone in your community or sphere of influence without expecting anything in return, reflecting Christ's servant heart.
3. In your daily prayers, specifically ask God to reveal areas of pride in your life and seek His guidance in cultivating humility in those areas.
4. Reflect on an area in life where you feel the need to 'win' or be 'right' and consciously make an effort to prioritize peace and understanding instead.
5. Set a reminder each morning to think about one way you can emulate Jesus' humility in your interactions with family, friends, or coworkers throughout that day.

Closing Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for this time together and for the insights and wisdom You've shared with us. As we leave this space, empower us to practice humility and seek harmony in all our interactions. Thank You for the example of Jesus, and may we grow to be more like Him each day. Cover us with Your peace and presence until we meet again. In Jesus' name, Amen.*