

RESOLVING EVERYDAY CONFLICT

**Week 1 | The Nature of
Conflict—Facing the Flames**

WHY STUDY PEACEMAKING?

- Conflict is all around us
- The devastating effects of being a poor peacemaker
- The Bible commands unity, peace and reconciliation when possible (texts to come)

DISCUSS

- **We normally think of conflict as a “bad” thing. What kinds of opportunities does conflict provide?**
- **What are some examples of conflict that don't arise from sin at all?**

THE ANATOMY OF CONFLICT: THE GASOLINE

- The Battle in the Heart
 - Jas. 4:1-2: “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain so you fight and quarrel.”
- The Desire-Demand Transition
 - “I *desire* this thing” to “I *expect* this thing” to “I *must have* this thing”

THE ANATOMY OF CONFLICT: THE GASOLINE

- How to Identify the Desire-Demand Transition
 - I would sin to obtain X or sin if I didn't obtain X
 - If I don't have or get X, I can't truly have joy or fulfillment
 - I find my self-worth, personal significance and value in X
- Cultural Emphasis on Self

DISCUSS

- **What desires tend to most often turn into expectations and then illegitimate demands and idols?**

THE ANATOMY OF CONFLICT: THE SPARK

- God-given diversity—Scripture celebrates unity, not uniformity (1 Cor 12)
- Misunderstandings—our communication is imperfect (Gen 11)
- Provocation—words, actions and circumstances provide an opportunity for us to show people what functionally rules our hearts

DISCUSS

- **Write down some of the most common sparks in your life. What do those sparks show specifically about your heart?**

PUTTING OUT THE FIRE—WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- Understanding how the Gospel transforms our approach to conflict and peacemaking (Eph. 4:32)
- Understanding when to overlook an offense (Prov 19:11)
- Understanding how to wisely consider things such as timing, intensity and communication method in confrontation

PUTTING OUT THE FIRE—WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- Understanding what repentance, confession and forgiveness look like in practice
- Understanding how to compromise and negotiate selflessly but straightforwardly