

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday?
Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *What is the worst conflict you have ever been in? Who was it with? How did it end?*
2. *How do you engage with conflict? Would you describe yourself as aggressive, passive, or passive aggressive?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

In Song of Solomon Chapter 5 we find Solomon and his wife navigating life after the honeymoon phase. The newness of the relationship has worn off and conflict has found its way into the marriage. The bible is filled with teachings about conflict; where it comes from, how to deal with it, and how to find reconciliation. Take a look at today's scripture

- *As a group spend some time reading James 1-12. Write down any observations, questions, important insights you gain from reading the text.*

- *According to James, what is the source of conflict? What does this say about the state of mankind?*
- *Earlier in our study of Song of Solomon Pastor Jason made the point, "If you do what the world does, you get what the world gets." What does James say about the world? What does that mean for believers.*
- *What does James suggest we do to avoid conflict (verses 7-9). How do we do this? What does it look like on a daily basis?*
- *In our study of chapter 5 of Song of Solomon we saw the Shulamite woman turn away from gossip and praise her husband. What do verses 11 and 12 of James teach us about gossip and slander?*

Digging Deeper

- *What is the biggest point of contention in your relationship? Why do you think that is? What steps can you take to work through this area of contention?*
- *On Sunday we learned to fight for reconciliation and not for victory. If we are honest, we often times fight for victory. What needs to change in your character to fight more fairly? What steps do you need to take to achieve this?*

“Reconcilable Differences ”
Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3

EVERY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCES CONFLICT

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:2-3 (ESV) *I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. “Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.” 3 I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?*

1. CONFLICTS ARE CAUSED BY UNMET EXPECTATIONS

- **Selfishness**
 - **JAMES 4:1-2 (NIV)** *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.*
- **Pride**
 - **PROVERBS 13:10 (NLT)** *Pride leads to conflict. Those who take advice are wise*

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:4 (ESV) ⁵ *My beloved put his hand to the latch, and my heart was thrilled within me.*

2. LEARN TO RESPOND NOT REACT

- **JAMES 3:5-6 (NIV)** *Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:5-7 (ESV) *I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. 6 I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me*

when he spoke. I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. The watchmen found me as they went about in the city; they beat me, they bruised me, they took away my veil, those watchmen of the walls.

3. LET GOD BRING ABOUT A CHANGE OF HEART

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:8-16 *I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am sick with love. What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us? My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand. 11 His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves beside streams of water, bathed in milk, sitting beside a full pool. 13 His cheeks are like beds of spices, mounds of sweet-smelling herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold, set with jewels. His body is polished ivory, bedecked with sapphires. 15 His legs are alabaster columns, set on bases of gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars. 16 His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*

4. FOCUS ON THE GOOD NOT THE BAD

- **PHILIPPIANS 4:8** *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE “GOOD” SEEMS GONE.

SONG OF SOLOMON 6:2-3 (ESV) *My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, to graze in the gardens and to gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.*

5. REMEMBER THE US IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ME

- **Fight for reconciliation, not for victory.**

6. WE ALL NEED THE GOSPEL