

## **FIGHT**

Fight Fair  
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Discussion Notes  
The Crossing Church  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## **OPENING**

Families are the most complex, frustrating and life-giving relationships in our lives. I don't know where you are in your relationships, but over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about families. You might wonder why we would name a family series "FIGHT". It is because great families don't happen by accident. If you want a great family, you have to fight for it. God says it is worth fighting for.

## **SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>**

**Nehemiah 4:14b** "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and daughters, your wives and your homes."

**Romans 12:18** "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

**Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins (against you), go and show him his fault just between the two of you."

**Matthew 5:23-24** "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift."

## **OBSERVATION**

Wherever there is a family there is bound to be a fight that is going to break out. Conflict in a family is unlike conflict anywhere else. If you win an argument in the living room or bedroom, there is no win.

**Question:** With whom in your family are you currently in conflict? (Consider this person when answering subsequent questions.)

**Question:** What does it mean that family conflict is different?

People respond to conflict in one of two ways:

- Conflict Enjoyers are ready for a good fight and they feel so much better afterward.
- Conflict Avoiders go out of their way to not engage in conflict, they deny conflict exists, and they just want everyone to be happy.

**Question:** Which one of the two are you?

**Question:** How do you feel when conflict erupts between you and your family member?

## **APPLICATION**

There is a principle and a process to fighting fair.

The principle

- St. Paul says the goal of conflict is to live at peace with everyone, if it is possible. (It may not be possible.)

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

- The pursuit of peace, even without promise, is a worthy effort. It is not pointless or a waste of time.
- We need to live out the teachings of Jesus in our lives.

The process demands that it is always our job to live in peace and involves questions, such as:

- What would happen if you always tried to live in peace?
- What would happen if you would change?
- What would happen if you would stop talking about conflicts?
- What would happen if you would get over yourself?
- What would happen if you owned part of the problem?

**Question:** What is your percent of responsibility for the problem in your home?

**Question:** Why do you think about the other person all of the time?

The reason you think about them is because there is no peace. In order to gain peace, if someone has wronged you, or if you have wronged someone else:

- It doesn't matter who is wrong, you don't have to assess blame.
- You don't have to wait until you are ready.
- You don't have to pray about it.
- Go immediately - it is not going to go away.
- Go directly - keep it between the two of you.
- Go humbly - own your part of the problem.

St. Paul says to stop talking about the other person, but we are required to go to him.

**Question:** What if the other person does not ask for forgiveness, or admit responsibility?

It is possible to have peace about the situation and the relationship even if there is never peace in it.

**Question:** What does this mean?

**Question:** Why does St. Paul say to go and reconcile with another before taking communion or bringing a gift to God's altar?

Making peace with others clears the path to making peace with God.

**Question:** How can you specifically make peace with your family member and with God?

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the lack of peace in our homes. We know that peace in all things is one of your highest priorities and we want to be obedient. Help us to put others first and ask, "What can I do for you?" even in the midst of conflict. Thank you for your Word which gives us the resources we need to live peaceful lives and, therefore, please you. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next Sunday, Mike Breaux will be speaking while Pastor Shane is in Israel.

Child dedication is available at all four services on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8, 2016. You can register online at [www.thecrossinglv.com/childdedication](http://www.thecrossinglv.com/childdedication).