

***Growing Deeper***  
***The Cost of 6ft***

**Week Four: *Peace at the Cost of Growth***  
***Galatians 2:11-16***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. When you think about having a conflict or being in conflict, what is your initial reaction? Why?
2. Conflict can be a sensitive topic to talk about. Ask God to make you sensitive to/aware of which conflicts you can grow through this week.
3. Look at the initial conflict in the Bible. Read Genesis 3.

| Who is in conflict? | How was the conflict solved? |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
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4. Look back at the chart above. What patterns do you observe about how God solves conflict and how people/Satan solve problems? (See Galatians 4:4.)
5. Read Romans 8:28, 31-32. Can God use conflict for our good? List any ways that come to mind.
6. As you close your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to work out the conflicts—not to give us our own way, but for our good and for his glory.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

7. When you recognize there is a conflict, what is your initial response? Do you engage right away or do you sit back and assess the situation?
8. Read James 4:1-2. Where do most conflicts come from?
9. How can we respond when conflict arises? List out some ideas, both healthy and unhealthy. For more ideas, visit:
  - a. <https://rw360.org/slippery-slope/>
  - b. <https://rw360.org/the-young-peacemaker/>
10. Read Matthew 5:9. Why are peacemakers blessed?

11. What does it mean to be a son (or daughter) of God? Read Romans 8:14-17.
12. Read James 3:13-18. Contrast peacemaking with selfish ambition. What do peacemakers look like?
13. Look over the list of healthy and unhealthy responses to conflict. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to move you to practice more healthy responses in conflict as you grow in peacemaking.
14. For more unhealthy behaviors in conflict and the antidotes to them, read:
  - a. <https://www.gottman.com/blog/the-four-horsemen-recognizing-criticism-contempt-defensiveness-and-stonewalling/>
  - b. <https://www.gottman.com/blog/the-four-horsemen-the-antidotes/>

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

15. Do we need to be fearful of all conflict? Why or why not?
16. Read Galatians 2:11. Did Paul shy away from the conflict with Peter? Why or why not?
17. Does it surprise you that the apostles had conflicts among themselves? Why or why not?
18. Read Galatians 2:12-13. What was the conflict between Peter and Paul?
19. Read Acts 15:1-5. Was the conflict a new one? How do you know?
20. Read Acts 15:6-11. After discussion by the elders and the apostles, what was Peter's response to the request that the Gentiles be circumcised?
21. How do you see God at work reconciling the Gentiles to the Jews in Peter's response?
22. End your FIFTEEN by asking God to show you how he is working through the conflicts around you.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

23. Conflicts are opportunities for growth. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

24. In Galatians 2:11-16, what was Paul's response to the conflict with Peter?
25. Look back at day 2 for healthy responses to conflict. Do you think Paul chose a healthy way to respond to the conflict with Peter? Why or why not?
26. Where would Paul's response fall on the slippery slope of conflict resolution?
27. As you look at different ways of responding to conflict, where do you see God challenging you to grow as a peacemaker?
28. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to open your heart to growing as you speak to others about a conflict or as you choose to overlook offenses, and pray that you know which one to practice as conflicts arise.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

29. Sin entered the world and has been a part of every relationship since. How does that comfort or challenge your thinking about conflicts?
30. Do you think conflicts surprise God? Why or why not?
31. Read Luke 12:13-21. What conflict prompted Jesus to tell this parable?
32. In the parable, how does the man get rich? Reread Luke 12:16. Were his riches based on any of his own actions or abilities?
33. By the end of the parable, the rich man is called a fool. Why do you think he was foolish? What did he value most? (Reread James 4:1-2 for more insight about the heart's role in conflict.)
34. How do our values cause conflict amongst ourselves and with God?
35. How can we be rich towards God?
36. Reflect on your relationship with God. How does God's relationship with you impact your relationship with the world around you? Spend some time worshiping God for who he is and what he has done for you.

37. How can we value conflict better? How can we change our perspective on conflict? Is there a better story to tell ourselves about conflicts?
  
38. Over the past year, as a society we have been told to live socially distanced lives in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. How have you seen God use social distancing as a blessing? How has social distancing created divisions or conflicts to be overcome?
  
39. Have you used social media to create an echo chamber for yourself? How can you break the hold of using social media as a way of isolating yourself or creating a false sense of security or righteousness? End your final FIFTEEN this week by declaring your isolation through social media in prayer to God.