



MEETING GUIDE

Session 3: God's Way is Considerate

October 7 - October 13, 2018

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Use the book The Complete Book of Questions. Have one person pick a number 401-500. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
2. Share one high and one low from this past week.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Hosts can pick the questions they believe would be best for their group.

1. Which of these statements do you find to be the most compelling and why?
 - O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand.
 - Habit #5 of highly effective people is "Seek first to understand, then to be understood."
 - The first duty of love is to listen.
 - We have two ears and one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less.
2. James, the brother of Jesus, taught, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19
 - What do you think hinders our really listening to others?
 - What have you done to become a better listener?
 - Besides really listening, what have you found to be helpful when seeking to understand someone?

3. What do you learn from these teachings of Jesus?

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

If a brother or sister in Christ sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If the brother or sister listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:15-20

4. From your experience, what have you found to be not helpful when trying to effectively resolve a conflict?

5. These are **Ten Steps for Resolving Conflict** developed by the mental health professionals at Prepare/Enrich LLC.

- 1) Set a good time and place for a structured crucial conversation.
- 2) Define the problem. Be specific. Example: *Sometimes (one of your names) feels (a real feeling) when she/he perceives that ...*
- 3) List the ways you each contribute to the problem.
- 4) List unsuccessful past attempts to resolve the conflict.
- 5) Brainstorm. Pool your new ideas and try to list 10 possible solutions to the problem. Be creative. Do not judge or criticize any of the suggestions at this point.
- 6) Discuss and evaluate each of these possible solutions. Be as objective as possible. Talk about how useful and appropriate each suggestion is for resolving the conflict.
- 7) Agree on one solution to try.
- 8) Agree how you will each work toward this solution. Be as specific as possible.
- 9) Set up another meeting to discuss your progress.
- 10) Reward each other for the progress. If you notice the other person making a positive contribution toward the solution, praise his/her effort.

- Would you be likely to use these steps to resolve conflict? Why or why not?
- What would hinder you from using these 10 steps? How do you go about effectively resolving conflicts?

6. What is one next step you would like to take from this week's message and discussion?

Summary

God's Way for experiencing what we want most in our relationships is to be considerate. This is the definition of considerate: showing kindly awareness and regard for another's feelings and circumstances. This is seeking first to understand, then to be understood. To understand we must really listen, which reflects this teaching of James, *"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."* [James 1:19](#) We are in conflict and in need of a structured crucial conversation when there is a disagreement, the stakes are high, and emotions have been triggered. Jesus taught us to resolve our conflicts. When we are in conflict it becomes difficult to really listen and seek to understand. Having a structured crucial conversation helps us to really listen and understand, and leads to effective conflict resolution. To experience what you want most in relationships, first listen and seek to understand, and effectively resolve conflicts.

Next week we will learn that **God's Way in our relationships is being willing to yield.**

Pray (5 Minutes)

Go around the circle and have each person thank God out loud for at least one blessing. You are encouraged to be specific. If you wish, you can say and complete this sentence as your prayer, "Dear God I thank you for _____." The leader should begin and end the prayer time.