

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, selected Scriptures

Title: Resolving Conflict in the Home

Let Love Win

Spats over the silliest things escalate to become major fights. Like passing a hot potato back and forth, you accept the hot potato so you can pass it back. And each time it's passed, it hurts. Eventually, the pain, the hurt, the wounds become greater than the silly thing that started it all. It takes maturity to drop the hot potato and say I forgive you, will you forgive me? It takes a willingness to let love win.

Question: Read 1 Peter 5:8—*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* In this passage, Peter warns us of the dangers to ourselves from a prowling devil. If we are in danger, aren't others in our homes in the same danger? What steps should we take to protect ourselves and our loved ones from being devoured by the adversary?

Question: Read James 4:1—*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?* It's not natural to look to ourselves to find blame, yet James singles out our own passions. What passions do you possess that cause you to quarrel and fight with others in the home and out of the home.

Question: Read Ephesians 4:25— *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.* In the context of interpersonal relationships, have you ever tried to speak the truth and found that it didn't go well? Why is that? Does speaking the truth to resolve a conflict require someone who is willing to listen to the truth?

Question: Read Ephesians 4:26— *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger....* Peppy advises to not go to bed angry and at odds with our spouse, family member or friend. This may lead to some late nights and lost sleep for many of us. Share some insights among the group about what you can do to quench the anger and get a full night's sleep?

Question: Read Ephesians 4:29— *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear;* and Ephesians 4:31-32— *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.* What theme or attitude do you see in these verses? In what way can the attitude in these verses benefit you as well as others? **Facilitator:** Is it an attitude of personal protection and self preservation, or is it one of humility and submission to others. A helpful passage can be found in Philippians 2:1-4.

Question: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NASB)— *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered....* Forgetfulness is a difficult skill to acquire and nurture, yet this is what Paul expects of us when he tells us to quit keeping an account of wrongs done to us. But a wrong is still a wrong. If we don't keep track of it, who does? How do we go about shifting a wrong suffered off our balance sheet to where it belongs, and where *does* it belong?

Facilitator: Suggest to the group that wrongs suffered belong with the Lord, not with us. It's our responsibility to forgive the wrongs we've suffered and let the Lord deal with them.

This verse may be rendered differently in other translations. It helps to read other translations and get a broader view of what the Lord has for us.

(ESV)—*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*