

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Whiplash

**Week 6: Relational Conflict**  
**Genesis 42-44**

**Week of September 26, 2021**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Life is filled with unexpected twists and turns. Through our study of Joseph, we see how God equips us to survive life's turbulent ups and downs. Today our focus is on how we can survive and endure relational conflict — be it with a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor, or a friend.

**Kicking it off:** Jeff explained how there was once quite a rivalry between the towns of Wheaton and Naperville. Growing up, what was one sports, town, or school rivalry that you experienced?

### Discussion:

1. When you hear the phrase, "Conflict is inevitable ..." how does that resonate with you? Do you tend to agree or disagree with this principle?
2. In Genesis 42:14, we see Joseph wanting to put his brothers to a test. Think of a time when you might have "tested" someone or had mixed motives in how you treated someone close to you as you were experiencing a conflict. How did that go for you?

*"But Joseph insisted, 'As I said, you are spies! This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here!'"*

3. Jeff explained how showing undeserved kindness is often what breaks the cycle of conflict. When have you seen this principle in action? (Either from you, toward you, or for someone close to you?)
4. Many people can see God's kindness and patience with others more than themselves. Read Romans 2:4b and 2 Peter 3:9. What does this show us about the heart of God? Does that seem to mostly intimidate or encourage you?

*"... God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance." (Romans 2:4b)*

*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)*

5. Sometimes we need to establish boundaries with unhealthy people in our lives. What are some possible good ways to do that? Brainstorm ideas as a group.
6. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. How do God's instructions of loving one another contrast with the world's? Why do you think these "simple" instructions are so hard for many of us to follow?

*"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."*

### Wrapping It Up:

Have each group member think of someone with whom they are having some relational conflict. Then pray for each of you to treat one another with kindness and courageously show affection (through your words or actions), wherever it's appropriate and possible.