

## Scripture and Background Information for August 4-10

### *How to Fight Without Losing*

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

#### **Background for James 3:13-18**

Relationships are hard. Whether with a roommate, a spouse, a parent, a child, a friend, or someone you barely know, conflict is inevitable if you stick around long enough – even among godly people. The difference between Christ-followers and the world isn't found in the absence of conflict, but in how we do it. During this series we'll look at 4 strategies for engaging conflict with each other when we're trying to love Jesus without killing each other in the process.

Throughout his letter to Jewish believers, James reminds his audience of true faith and everyday practical experience by stressing that true faith works. It endures trials; it obeys God's Word; it produces doers; it harbors no prejudice; it controls the tongue; it acts wisely; it provides the power to resist the devil; it waits patiently for the coming of the Lord.

James 3 reminds us of our human, sinful limitations. Whether it be in controlling speech or controlling the selfish desires of our hearts, we are hopeless to change without God's help. A sinful tongue is evidence of a heart issue and so is a lack of wisdom. James moves us closer to an answer to our problem in James 3:13-18. James is clear where conflict originates, but he is also clear that we have another alternative as we ask God for help.

#### Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

August 11

2 Corinthians 13:11

August 18

Philippians 2:5-11