

## Scripture and Background Information for August 11-17

### *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 2 Corinthians 13:11**

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.

Since, Paul's first letter, the Corinthian church had been swayed by false teachers who stirred the people against Paul. They claimed he was fickle, proud, unimpressive in appearance and speech, dishonest, and unqualified as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul sent Titus to Corinth to deal with these difficulties, and upon his return, rejoiced to hear of the Corinthians' change of heart. Paul wrote this letter to express his thanksgiving for the repentant majority and to appeal to the rebellious minority to accept his authority. In both of his letters to the Corinthians, Paul is appealing to a quarrelsome people.

In 2 Corinthians 13, Paul reminds the Corinthians of a few guiding principles for when we face conflict. That as we work toward unity and peace, God is faithful to work with us and through us.

#### Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

August 18

Philippians 2:5-11

August 25

Luke 6:32-37