

# IT'S COMPLICATED

SIMPLIFYING EVERYDAY  
RELATIONSHIPS

## WEEK 1 | LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

- We often think about conflict in big terms. But, small things can create tension in our lives too. **What is your biggest pet peeve (loud chewing, slow internet, dirty dishes, etc...?)**

### CONSIDER

- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

### CHRIST

- Conflict is inevitable whether we like it or not. In fact, how we handle conflict often comes from how we were raised. **What did conflict look like in your family growing up: conflict was avoided at all cost, conflict was considered no big deal, conflict usually escalated into heated interactions, conflict was present but never talked about, or conflict was most often dealt with in a healthy way? Why?**

**Which of the following words describes how you usually approach conflict now: run, avoid, argue, stubborn, defensive, listen, problem solve, panic, or choose your own word? Why?**

**Read Genesis 25:24-34 & 27:1-43 as a group.**

- This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding Jacob and Esau's and their families' story of conflict. **What stands out to you from their story? Why?**
- Needless to say, Jacob and Esau's conflict did not go well. **Can you think of a time in your life when a personal conflict you experienced did not go well?** Usually we have a list of things we wish we could have done better. **Thinking back on that situation, was prayer, the Holy Spirit, or Biblical wisdom involved? How could these things impact conflict?**
- We would all agree that there are better ways to handle conflict than deceiving someone or threatening to kill them. This means we need to think in terms of how to respond to conflict in ways that are healthy and consistent with our faith. **Read the following passages: Matthew 5:23-25; 7:3-5; 18:15, and Romans 12:18. What do you learn about responding to conflict in God-honoring ways? What challenges do you face in trying to respond to conflict in these God-honoring ways?**
- It's important to note that Jesus says conflict can actually hinder our worship and relationship with God (Matthew 5:23-24). **How have you experienced this in your own faith journey?**

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Read Genesis 33:1-7 as a group.

- Jacob and Esau have not seen each other in 20 years. The last thing Jacob remembers is that his brother wanted to kill him. But, since their conflict, Jacob's life has been changed by God (Genesis 32). Instead of approaching ready to fight, Jacob approaches humbly. We can only assume Esau has changed as well, because instead of fighting he runs to his brother. The grace and forgiveness of this moment is unbelievable, and would have a lasting impact on Jacob and his family (in particular Joseph). Grace and forgiveness are powerful in the midst of conflict. **How do the following verses add to this moment of grace and its effect in our lives: 1 Corinthians 15:10, 2 Corinthians 4:14-15, Ephesians 2:4-7, and 1 Peter 4:8-10?**
- **How are you experiencing conflict right now (internally, spiritually, family, work, etc)? What are you actively praying for in this situation? As a group, how can we encourage you?**

## CALLING

- **Reconciliation or Bitterness?** These two things can develop out of conflict. One leads to movement/health and the other stagnation/death. Think about your answer to the final discussion question. Is this conflict creating anger and bitterness? How can you seek reconciliation and grace? Pray for the wisdom to move forward in the conflict.
- To continue having the Best Summer Ever, check out these suggested resources at [mynorthside.com/bestsummerever](http://mynorthside.com/bestsummerever).
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside's App for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* - Romans 12:18
- **Further Study:** Read Genesis 25:19-34, 27-33, 37, & 42-45. What do you learn about conflict through the life and sons of Jacob? What do you learn about forgiveness and family legacy?