



Family, we're all part of one. And if you're part of a family, you know that conflict is inevitable. Conflict can occur during before school, during dinner or on our way to church. Many times, we fail to see the true cause of our conflict, even if it's staring back at us in the mirror.

1. How was conflict handled in your home growing up? Do you see similar things happening in your home/relationships today?
2. Webster defines conflict as: a struggle for power; strong disagreement between people; a difference that prevents agreement. What type of conflict do you see most often in your home?
3. James 4:1 asks, "What causes fights and quarrels among you?" When thinking about your style of conflict, which one of the seven styles that David shared most reflects you: the peacemaker, blamer, negotiator, stuffer, exploder, screamer or martyr? How does your style vs. the other styles in your family affect conflict in your home? Do you have one style with your family (or for your spouse vs. your kids/parents) and one style at work? Why the difference?
4. James 4:1 goes on to say that conflicts "come from your desires that battle within YOU" and not in the person you have conflict with. What are some of the desires or unmet needs that are fueling your conflict with others? How can Jesus meet these needs for you? What are the needs you can let go of so that your relationships improve?
5. David explained how unfulfilled desires can kill relationships. There are several examples of these conflicts in the Bible. Read over the following passages and identify the desire and the conflict:
  - Abraham and Sarah, Genesis 16:1-6
  - Moses, Numbers 20:1-13
  - David, 2 Samuel 11
6. David said that when you let others make you unhappy, you hand them your happiness. Conflict is never a happy experience, so in a conflict circumstance, what would the opposite of unhappiness look like?
7. Why do we find it so difficult to accept our "piece of the pie" when it comes to conflict? When we own our part, how does it help to lower the temperature of a conflict? What are the benefits?
8. James 4:3 says, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives." Many times, we are focused on what someone is "doing to us" or how someone is "making us feel." Our prayer is often for God to change the other person. Talk about some ways that we can pray about our conflicts with right motives.

**If we're willing to invite Jesus into our conflicts and acknowledge the role we play, we will be one step closer to living Family Strong.**