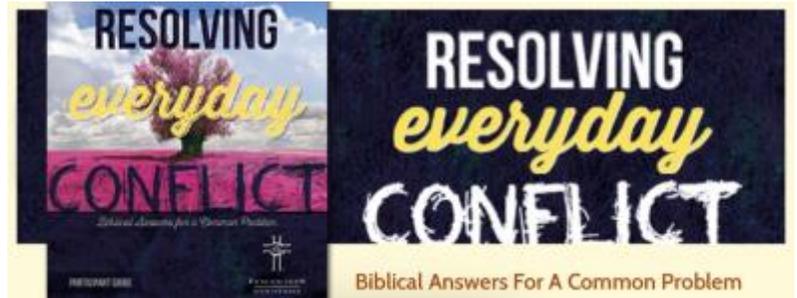


A New Way of Thinking

Life Bridge Community Church
Week 2 of 8



Review

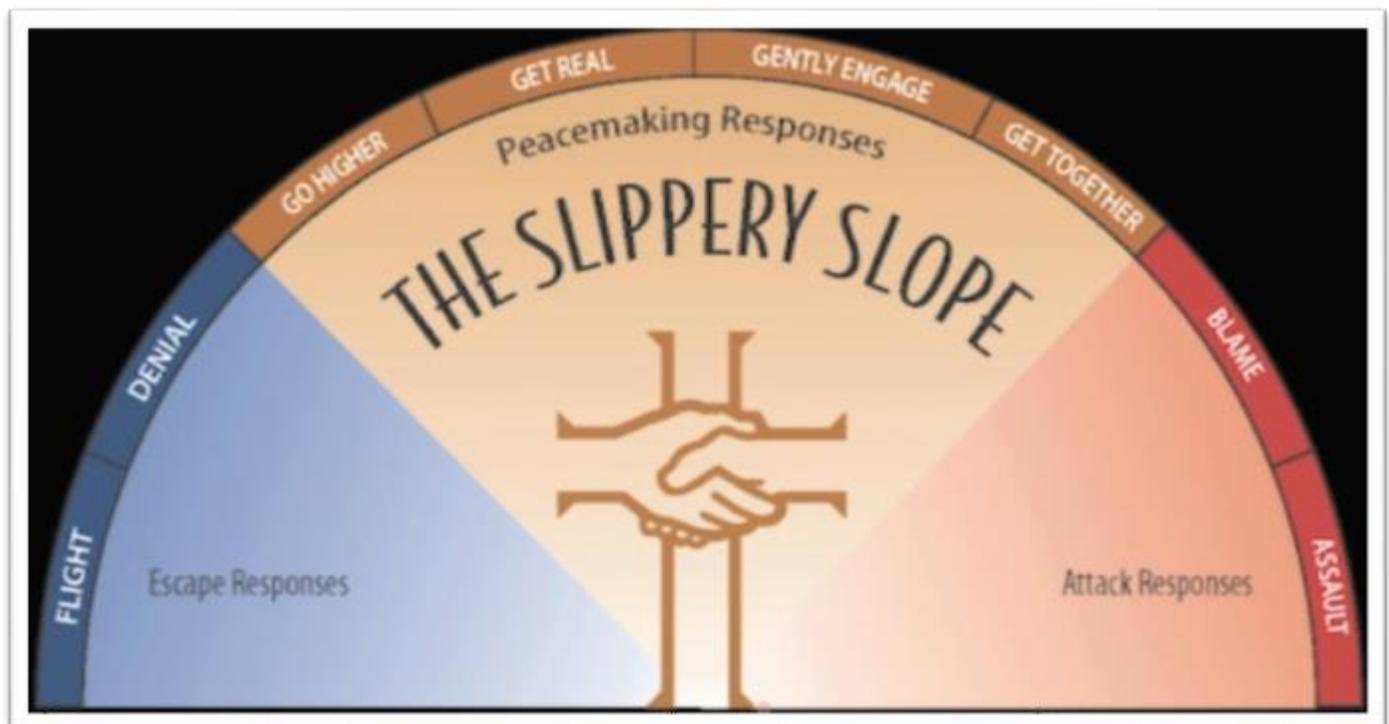
Sparks: Diversity, misunderstanding, selfish attitudes

Gasoline: Cravings are challenged or denied

Fire: Conflict, arguing, complaining, anger, bitterness

God's better way: Love and forgive as God has loved and forgiven us

Responses to Conflict



Escape Responses (“Running”)

Denial

Flight

Attack Responses (“Winning”)

Blame

Assault

“The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell... No one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:6-8)

Peacemaking or Biblical Responses (“The Four G’s”)

This study is not primarily about resolution of the issue, but about reconciliation of the relationship.

1. Go to higher ground (*Glorify God; 1 Cor 10:31*)

2. Get real about yourself (*Get the log out of your eye; Matt 7:5*)

3. Gently engage others (*Gently restore; Gal 6:1*)

4. Get together on lasting solutions (*Go and be reconciled; Matt 5:23*)

A Great First Step: Just Overlook It

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” (Proverbs 19:11)

Ask yourself, “Is this worth fighting over?”

Put your conflict in context.

Discussion Question(s)

1. What is it about taking responsibility for a problem that can be so difficult for us?
2. What is your conflict style? Are you more of an attacker or an escaper? Give some examples of when and how God has convicted you about your approach to conflict.
3. How can we train ourselves to be less sensitive ourselves and simultaneously more sensitive to others?
4. What triggers might you put in place to be able to prioritize reconciliation over resolution in the heat of conflict?