

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Read Prv.10:12; 28:25: How have you experienced both the negative and positive results of conflict (as per conflict leading to hatred or peace)? What are some hindrances that limit the positive results of conflict?
- b) Read James 4:1-3: How does God use conflict to expose our innate desires (whether righteous or evil desires)? How can we journey through the path of wisdom while confronting the righteous desires exposed through conflict? How can we travel through the course of wisdom while confronting our evil desires exposed through conflict (Also read James 3:13-15)?
- c) Pst. Akin illustrated that “conflict is an opportunity to choose wisdom.” How can we healthily embrace this opportunity?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Given Genesis 3 & 4, we find numerous conflicts. How does God approach these conflicts compared to man?
- b) What does God’s approach to conflict teach us about Him?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Pst. Akin mentioned, “To know Jesus is to know peace, and to have Jesus is to have peace” (Read Romans 5:1-5 as you think through that statement).
- b) Since we have all sinned and offended God (Rom 2:12), how did Christ bring about peace?
- c) Since we have all been hostile to each other (Eph 2:11-13), how did Christ reconcile us (Eph 2:14-18)?

APPLICATION

- a) Since we have peace with God, our goal in conflict should be peace/restoration. Thus, living peaceably cannot be attained automatically but progressively through persevering in the practice of heavenly wisdom. Here are progressive practices to think through and discuss:
 1. Listening to understand
 2. Overlooking some minor offenses
 3. Confronting sin and offenses with a pure conscience and a restorative goal.
 4. *Read James 3:13-18 while discussing the above applications.* Which earthly wisdom are you struggling with? Which heavenly wisdom do you need to grow in? Share the positive effects of the heavenly/earthly wisdom you have practiced recently.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his holiness that restores us through his justice and mercy.
- Confess how you have practiced earthly wisdom during conflicts (be specific).
- Thank God for the redemptive work of Christ that brings peace between God and Man and between one another
- Ask God to help you pursue specific heavenly wisdom.