



## **BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE**

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

### **05.15/16.10 // To Save a Family: Fighting Well**

**BiG iDEA: *FAMILY CONFLICT IS NOT A BAD THING IF WE DO IT IN A BIBLICAL WAY. OUR TRUE MOTIVE IS TO HONOR CHRIST IN OUR HOMES.***

#### **// Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_**

**Option 1: Growing up how did your family handle problems? (Ignore, blow up, talk them out, blame others, etc.)**

**Option 2: What's the most important thing that happened to you this week?**

#### **// Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_**

##### **1. James 4: 1- 3**

<sup>1</sup>What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup>When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

**What causes fights and quarrels among you?**

**Why don't you get what you want?**

**Why is it important to understand where our conflicts come from?**

##### **2. Ephesians 6:10**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**Who are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places?**

**In what ways do they try to destroy families?**

**Why would they do this?**

**What are some examples of the attacks on family in our society today?**

##### **3. Matthew 7:5**

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**What do you think this means?**

**Why is this principal important?**

**What are some ways to take the log out of your own eye?**

**4. Ecclesiastes 3: 7**

....A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

**Why is it important to plan a time to discuss controversial conflicts?**

**What would be some pitfalls in not planning and jumping into a discussion?**

**What would be some practical aspects to planning a meeting?**

**5. Romans 12: 10**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**What difference does it make knowing that someone loves you unconditionally?**

**Would knowing someone loves you make it easier to resolve issues?**

**What would be some ways to show that our love is unconditional?**

**6. James 1: 19**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry....

**Why is it important to listen more than talk when resolving conflicts?**

**What are some barriers that prevent us from doing this?**

**What are some problems with getting angry during a discussion?**

**7. Philippians 2: 4 - 5**

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**Why is it important to forgive?**

**What happens when we don't think of the other person and don't forgive?**

**Does forgiveness mean that you let another person take advantage of you? Why or why not?**

**The following from the acrostic F.I.G.H.T.**

**8. F. Figure Out the Issue.**

**Has anyone been involved in an argument only to find out that the two sides were upset about different things?**

**How can we come to agreement on what the real issue is?**

**How can we stay focused on the issue at hand and not get sidetracked?**

**9. I. Identify Each Person's Needs.**

**What happens when one person's needs aren't addressed?**

**Is it OK to just 'give in'? What could be some outcomes of this?**

**What would be some options if everyone's needs just cannot be accommodated?**

**10. G. Generate Solutions.**

**Have the group share some ideas that worked for them.**

**Where can we get ideas to help resolve our issues?**

**11. H. Have a Prayer Together.**

**Is it easy to pray together when you're mad at them?**

**Is it easy to stay mad after you pray with someone?**

**Who else is brought into the equation when you pray? How can this be valuable?**

**12. T. Take Responsibility for Solutions.**

**What are some ways we can implement this?**

**What happens when we don't take responsibility for our actions?**

// **Application** \_\_\_\_\_

**Read and commit to memory . Philippians 2: 4**

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Focus on really resolving conflicts in a biblical manner.**

**F -- FIGURE OUT THE ISSUE.**

**I -- IDENTIFY EACH PERSON'S NEEDS.**

**G -- GENERATE SOLUTIONS.**

**H -- HAVE PRAYER TOGETHER.**

**T -- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLUTIONS.**

// **Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be reconciled to each other and to God.**

**For strong Godly families.**

*The more arguments you  
win..*

*The fewer friends you have..*