



The Story Church Discipleship Groups | Spring 2021

Introduction:

Christians believe salvation is all about God's grace, right? No amount of good works can get a person into heaven; only trusting in Jesus can do that. So what's the point of living a good life after deciding you believe in Jesus? Why should Christians subject themselves to discomfort, self-sacrifice, and self-discipline if simply believing in Jesus is enough to punch their tickets to heaven? Part of trusting Jesus means allowing him to shape our lives - not just in eternity - but in the here and now. In this series, we'll explore the ways God's saving grace can transform the believer's character in this life. From your love life to your priorities to your personality, God calls out and equips believers to live lives that are shaped by the cross of Jesus Christ.

Session 4: Cross-Shaped Conflict

[WATCH THE SERMON HERE](#)

Discussion Questions:

Why is it so important for us to talk about managing conflict well?

What were the events that precipitated the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15?

What was the conflict?

The leaders in Jerusalem led the church through a four-step process to resolve this conflict.

Step One: Name the _____.

Why is it important that we identify the issue when resolving a conflict?

Step Two: Listen to _____.

Who did the Christian leaders in Jerusalem listen to, and why?

Who are some of the people in your life whose insights you would seek in the midst of a conflict?

Step Three: Surrender to _____.

How were the insights of Peter, Paul, and Barnabas affirmed by Scripture, and what difference did that make to the Christian leaders?

Many people think surrendering our opinions, emotions, and politics to Scripture is repressive and limiting. How might surrendering to Scripture actually be liberating?

Why is this step the most important one of all?

Step Four: Offer Clear _____.

What instruction did James, as the leader of the Jerusalem Church, offer to the other Christian leaders? On what basis did he change course?

How could these four steps apply to a conflict you've dealt with in the past, or one you're dealing with right now? One step at a time, write a short summary of how a real-life conflict might be addressed with the process found in Acts 15.