

## Based on this week's sermon...

### SCRIPTURE

Write down the scripture verse(s) that caught your attention.

### OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture?

### APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now.

### PRAYER

Write out your prayer based on what God has said to you today.

#### This Week's Life Journal Readings

##### Saturday, May 1

1 Chr. 14,15  
Ps. 132; Mt. 18

##### Sunday, May 2

1 Chr. 16  
Ps. 106; Mt. 19

##### Monday, May 3

2 Sam. 7; 1 Chr. 17  
Ps. 2; Mt. 20

##### Tuesday, May 4

2 Sam. 8,9  
1 Chr. 18,19; Mt. 21

##### Wednesday, May 5

2 Sam. 10  
1 Chr. 20  
Ps. 20; Mt. 22

##### Thursday, May 6

2 Sam. 11,12  
Ps. 51; Mt. 23

##### Friday, May 7

2 Sam. 13,14  
Mt. 24

##### Saturday, May 8

2 Sam. 15,16  
Ps. 32; Mt. 25

##### Sunday, May 9

2 Sam. 17  
Ps. 71; Mt. 26



Transformers

MAY 1/2, 2010

SPEAKER: JEFF FUTERS

## Scripture: Acts 15

\_\_\_\_\_ are an inevitable part of  
all \_\_\_\_\_.

*This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. {Acts 15:2 NIV}*

*When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was able to give all his time to preaching and teaching, doing everything he could to persuade the Jews that Jesus was in fact God's Messiah. But no such luck. All they did was argue contentiously and contradict him at every turn... {Acts 18:5-6 Msg}*

Our relational disagreements are often the result of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. {Acts 15:37-38 NIV}*

*Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends. {Proverbs 17:9}*

Disagreements reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our relationships.

*They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company... {Acts 15:39a NIV}*

*Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. {Luke 9:46 NLT}*

God can \_\_\_\_\_ our disagreements and use them to achieve \_\_\_\_\_ results.

*They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. {Acts 15:39-41 NIV}*

*He knows us far better than we know ourselves,...That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. {Romans 8:27-28 Msg}*

## CLG Notes

Refer back to your notes from Sunday as you work through this CLG material.



Conflict will be inevitable whenever we risk revealing to others what we truly feel or think about any matter, especially when they do not hold the same opinion as we do (Gal. 2:11-14). At times though, we will opt to become peace-keepers and avoid conflict rather than being true to what we really feel and speaking out of an authentic heart. In conflict avoidance we sacrifice a very important relational component, speaking the truth in love. Why do we fear conflict with one another? Why is it easier for us to agree with others by avoiding telling them how we think or feel? Is peace-keeping really a form of lying if we are afraid to speak our mind?

**Dig Deeper:** Read Romans 14. Highlight and rephrase each recommendation Paul gives for helping believers to navigate their way through a disagreement.

**Live Out The Truth:** Invite those who are closest to you to give you some constructive feedback as to how they perceive you to be during a disagreement! Are you defensive? Argumentative? Impatient? Closed-minded? Understanding of another's point of view?



Consider the following areas of growth that are associated with our capacity to agree to disagree: which ones do you struggle with the most?

- acceptance of another person's right to hold a different viewpoint;
- our ability to graciously disagree without holding a grudge;
- our ability to express patience as we hear out the other person;
- submission to not always having to have our own way;
- ability to be open-minded and less opinionated;
- to be reasonable and not resisting
- to seek to understand rather than be understood;
- to differentiate between matters of priority and preference.

**Dig Deeper:** Re-examine the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these character traits are essential when it comes to handling disagreements? How would you apply the relational challenges given by Paul in Philippians 2:1-4 in the way you handle disagreements?

**Live Out The Truth:** Pray for one person you are most apt to disagree with, and think of ways to show them that you are more willing to understand their perspective than you are for them to understand yours.



Disagreements can help us to distinguish between issues of temporal or eternal significance. This is never more true than when it comes to evangelism or mission. People who are far from God may disagree with what we believe about God, life and other things. On the flip side we may profoundly disagree with the attitudes, behaviors, choices, and deeds of non-believers.

Are we at an impasse? Or can we still show compassion, kindness and care by loving and serving those who are far from God? What obligations do we have towards people who do not know Christ that we cannot ignore even if they reject or dismiss us?

**Dig Deeper:** Consider 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. How do these verses apply to the issue of disagreement?

**Live Out The Truth:** Is there someone who is far from God that you have dismissed over a disagreement? Begin to pray for them and ask God to show you how to build a bridge of compassion and understanding towards them.