

RESPOND TO CONFLICT AS AN AMBASSADOR OF JESUS CHRIST

THE TWO FIRES OF CONFLICT



The Wildfire

The Peacefire

Study Guide

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:3-4

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SESSION 1 THE AMBASSADOR

- 1.1. An ambassador is an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official _____ to a foreign country. *Dictionary.com*
- 1.2. Ambassadors are chosen and _____.
- 1.3. When an ambassador _____ in an official capacity, the ambassador speaks on behalf of the sovereign/nation that sent the ambassador.
- 1.4. When an ambassador takes official _____, the action taken is conducted on behalf of the sovereign/nation that sent the ambassador.
- 1.5. Ambassadors are backed by the _____ of the sovereign that sends them.
- 1.6. Jesus Christ was sent to earth as the Father's ambassador. John 6:38; 7:16. Jesus spoke what the Father told Him to speak. John 12:49-50. Jesus relied on the Father's _____ to accomplish the works that the Father sent Him to do. John 5:19; 14:10
- 1.7. Christians are citizens and ambassadors of a _____ kingdom. John 18:36; Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 2:11.
- 1.8. Christians are _____ of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:20. They are chosen and sent. John 15:16a; 20:21. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 2:20; John 15:5

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ in the midst of conflict?

RESPONSE:

2. How might considering yourself as an ambassador of Jesus Christ change the way you respond to conflict?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Thank the Lord for choosing you as His ambassador and ask Him to grant you the grace to serve Him faithfully.

ANSWERS: 1.1. representative; 1.2. sent; 1.3. speaks; 1.4. action; 1.5. power; 1.6. power; 1.7. heavenly; 1.8. ambassadors



SESSION 2 THE FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE

- 2.1. Jesus Christ is the Fourth Man in the fire of _____ conflict you encounter as a servant of God. Daniel 3; Isaiah 43:2
- 2.2. Jesus Christ isn't just with you in the fire, for he lives _____ you. John 14:20
- 2.3. The primary goal of the Two Fires of Conflict course is to equip you to experience God's transforming peace by responding to conflict as an _____ of Jesus Christ.
- 2.4. This goal is accomplished by understanding what the Bible teaches about conflict, combined with a relationship of relentless _____ on Jesus Christ.
- 2.5. A secondary goal of the Two Fires of Conflict course is to _____ you to train others.
- 2.6. Scripture theme for the Two Fires Course - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD God is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:3-4

QUESTIONS

1. What are your expectations as you begin the Two Fires of Conflict Course?

RESPONSE:

2. How do you *typically* respond to conflict? Circle one or more responses that describe ways that you tend to respond to conflict wildfires. Why do you think you respond to conflict the way you do?
 - A. Run from the fire and hope it burns itself out.
 - B. Keep my distance from the fire and monitor its status, returning when it is safe.
 - C. Ignore the fire.
 - D. Fight the fire by making tactical decisions.
 - E. Fight the fire aggressively by attacking others and putting them in their place.

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and invite Him to use this study to transform you as He sees fit.

ANSWERS: 2.1. every; 2.2. in; 2.3. ambassador; 2.4. reliance; 2.5. equip



SESSION 3 THE FIRST FIRE OF CONFLICT - THE WILDFIRE

- 3.1. The Wildfire represents the dynamic nature of conflict. It encompasses all of the factors that _____ to a conflict - the people, relationships, history, motivations, desires, actions, material objects/property, legal issues, etc.
- 3.2. Conflict Wildfires can be _____. Conflict can destroy relationships, marriages, families, careers, organizations, churches, and communities.
- 3.3. Most people respond to Conflict Wildfires by pursuing a desired _____.
- 3.4. We should not be _____ when conflict wildfires ignite. 1 Peter 4:12
- 3.5. _____ and tribulation are part of the Christian life. Acts 14:21-22
- 3.6. Jesus Christ encourages us to take _____ in the midst of conflict. John 16:33

QUESTIONS

- 1. List the Conflict Wildfires burning in your life at this time.

RESPONSE:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

- 2. For each of the Wildfires you identified in response to the previous question, place the corresponding letter from each Wildfire on the line below to indicate the current intensity of each conflict.

RESPONSE:

Embers Campfire Bonfire Brush Fire Raging Wildfire

Prayer Challenge: Take each of the conflicts you listed above, lay them before the Lord, and ask Him to provide you with courage to respond to each one in a manner that pleases Him.

ANSWERS: 3.1. contribute; 3.2. destructive; 3.3. outcome; 3.4. surprised; 3.5. Trials; 3.6. heart



SESSION 4 THE SECOND FIRE OF CONFLICT - THE PEACEFIRE

- 4.1. The Peacefire is a fire that ignites when someone makes a _____ choice to pursue Jesus Christ in response to a conflict rather than pursue a desired outcome.
- 4.2. The Peacefire is a place where Jesus Christ provides a _____ peace to those who relentlessly rely on him.
- 4.3. At the Peacefire, Jesus Christ is our _____ in the midst of conflict. Eph. 2:14a; John 14:27; Phil 4:7
- 4.4. At the Peacefire, Jesus Christ is the _____ that transforms and empowers. Matt. 3:11; Is. 48:10; Is. 1:25; 1 Peter 1:7
- 4.5. At the Peacefire, we do not pursue Jesus Christ to obtain our desired outcome. We pursue Him in order to serve as His _____ and pursue His desired outcome.

QUESTIONS

1. How can seeking Jesus Christ rather than a desired outcome impact the way you respond to a conflict? Explain.

RESPONSE:

2. Can you look back at any past conflict in your life and see how the Lord used that conflict to transform you to become more like Jesus Christ? Explain.

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to experience His transforming peace in each of your conflicts.

ANSWERS: 4.1. faith; 4.2. transforming; 4.3. peace; 4.4. fire; 4.5. ambassador



SESSION 5. THE CHOICE

- 5.1. Every conflict presents an opportunity to make a choice that will impact how we _____ to the conflict.
- 5.2. Each choice is like a _____ that we plant. It will eventually bear fruit. Our choices have consequences. Gal. 6:7-8
- 5.3. The choice you have in every conflict is: Which _____ will ignite your response to conflict – the Wildfire or the Peacefire?
- 5.4. When the Wildfire ignites our response to a conflict, we are _____ by what is happening in the Wildfire - by what we think, see, and feel.
- 5.5. The focus at the Wildfire is to obtain our desired outcome and _____ self.
- 5.6. When the Peacefire ignites our response to a conflict, we make faith choices in reliance upon God's Word, motivated by His _____, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Prov. 3:5-7
- 5.7. The focus at the Peacefire is to please and _____ Jesus Christ as His ambassador.
- 5.8. The Lord promises to provide His _____ when we bring our choices to Him. Isaiah 26:3-4

QUESTIONS

1. Which fire tends to ignite the choices you make in response to conflict? Why?

RESPONSE:

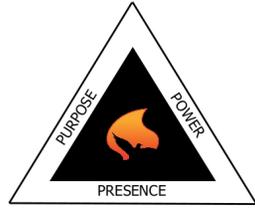
2. Do you think it makes a difference whether the Wildfire or the Peacefire motivates your response to a conflict? What difference can it make?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Lord and ask Him for the grace to pursue Jesus Christ in response to conflict rather than your desired outcome.

ANSWERS: 5.1. respond; 5.2. seed; 5.3. fire; 5.4. motivated; 5.5. please; 5.6. love; 5.7. obey; 5.8. peace

SESSION 6. The Peacefire Triangle



THE PEACEFIRE TRIANGLE

- 6.1 Three principles help us understand how to _____ to conflict from the Peacefire as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.
- 6.2 Principle #1: Seeking God’s presence changes your _____. Joshua 5:13-14
- 6.3 Principle #2: Pursuing God’s purpose changes your _____. Matt. 6:33; Romans 8:28
- 6.4 Principle #3: Relying on God’s power changes your _____. John 15:5; Eph. 3:20; Jer. 32:17
- 6.5 All three legs of the Peacefire Triangle must be present in order to experience God’s _____ peace in the midst of conflict.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Which of the three principles strikes you as the most important? Explain.

RESPONSE:

- 2. What are the benefits of seeking the Lord’s presence when you experience conflict?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to see your conflicts from His perspective; to reveal to you His purposes in those conflicts; and for the power to serve Him as a faithful ambassador during those conflicts.

ANSWERS: 6.1. respond; 6.2. perspective; 6.3. priorities; 6.4. possibilities; 6.5. transforming

ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE

SESSION 7. FOUR ATTRIBUTES OF A CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER - HUMILITY



THE PEACEFIRE TRIANGLE



- 7.1 It is impossible to respond to conflict as an ambassador of Jesus Christ without spending time in God’s _____.
- 7.2 There are four attributes that the Lord provides to His ambassadors that make our time in His presence _____: humility, a desire to please God, faith, and love.
- 7.3 It is the Lord’s desire that we walk _____ with Him. Micah 6:8
- 7.4 Humility is a measure of _____ in God’s kingdom. Matthew 18:1-4
- 7.5 Jesus Christ displayed the humility that _____ the Father by becoming a man and laying down his life. Phil. 2:5-11
- 7.6 The same _____ (attitude/way of thinking) that was in Jesus Christ is formed in us as we seek him and trust him to transform us into his image. 1 Cor.2:16
- 7.7 _____ is the enemy of humility and the Peacefire. Prov. 29:23
- 7.8 When we humble ourselves in His presence, it takes our mind off of the conflict _____.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Conflict sometimes encourages the belief that you are “right” and the other party is “wrong.” Does this thinking fuel the Peacefire or the Wildfire? Why?

RESPONSE:

- 2. How can humbling yourself impact the right/wrong dynamic described in question number 1?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to receive the humility of Jesus Christ as part of your transformation.

ANSWERS: 7.1. presence; 7.2. fruitful; 7.3. humbly; 7.4. greatness; 7.5. please; 7.6. mind; 7.7. Pride; 7.8. wildfire



SESSION 8. FOUR ATTRIBUTES OF A CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER - A DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD

- 8.1. The _____ you make in response to conflict reveal who you desire to please - self, others, or your Heavenly Father.
- 8.2. Ambassadors always seek to please the one who _____ them.
- 8.3. Jesus Christ lived his life to _____ his Heavenly Father, not himself or others. John 8:29; Rom. 15:3a; Luke 22:42
- 8.4. The Bible teaches that Christians should desire to please God before _____ or self. Gal. 1:10
- 8.5. You cannot please God in a conflict wildfire and pursue _____ goals/desires at the same time. Romans 8:8

QUESTIONS

1. When you respond to conflict, who do you typically try to please - yourself, others, the Lord?

RESPONSE:

2. How can seeking the Lord's presence with a desire to please Him impact the way you respond to conflict?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him to grant you the grace to desire to please Him above all others, including yourself.

ANSWERS: 8.1. choices; 8.2. self; 8.3. please; 8.4. others; 8.5. selfish



SESSION 9. FOUR KEY ATTRIBUTES OF A CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER - FAITH

- 9.1 Even if we have the desire to please God, it is _____ to please God without faith. Heb. 11:6
- 9.2 Like humility and a desire to please God, faith is a _____ from the Father. Eph. 2:8-9
- 9.3 _____ God's word produces faith. Romans 10:17
- 9.4 Believing the truth of God's word will not profit you unless you _____ it with the faith that the word of God produces. Hebrews 4:2; James 2:19
- 9.5 Faith impacts our _____ and our words. James 2:17; 2 Cor. 4:13a
- 9.6 Our faith is in Jesus Christ, not in _____ wisdom or man's abilities and talents. 1 Cor. 2:4-5
- 9.7 When we focus on the wildfire rather than seek the Lord's presence, we can _____ away from the faith. 1 Tim. 6:10
- 9.8 Seeking the Lord's presence encourages us to respond to conflict by making faith _____ that are grounded in our relationship with Jesus Christ, rather than making choices motivated by the circumstances or emotions generated in the wildfire.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to make "faith choices" in response to a conflict wildfire?

RESPONSE:

2. How can seeking the Lord's presence help you make faith choices based on God's word rather than choices based on circumstances and/or emotions?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him to give you the kind of faith that pleases Him.

ANSWERS: 9.1. impossible; 9.2. gift; 9.3. Hearing; 9.4. mix; 9.5. actions; 9.6. worldly; 9.7. wander; 9.8. choices



SESSION 10. FOUR ATTRIBUTES OF A CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER - LOVE

- 10.1 Even if we have the faith that is required to please God, that faith means _____ if it is not empowered and motivated by God's love. 1 Cor. 13:2; Gal. 5:6
- 10.2 God is love and He pours His love into His people through the _____. 1 John 4:16; Romans 5:5
- 10.3 The love that God provides is more powerful than _____. 1 John 4:18
- 10.4 Our love for one another is the authentic manifestation that we _____ and love God. John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:20
- 10.5 The love of Jesus Christ should manifest itself in our relationships with those who might consider us their _____. Matt. 5:43-45
- 10.6 By seeking the Lord's presence at the Peacefire, we _____ ourselves to be filled with His love for others involved in the conflict.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength in the midst of conflict?

RESPONSE:

2. Does loving others the way Jesus Christ loves you mean that you respond to conflict by just giving others what they want? Explain your answer.

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to know the fullness of His love so that you may love Him as He deserves and desires to be loved by you.

ANSWERS: 10.1. nothing; 10.2. Holy Spirit; 10.3. fear; 10.4. know; 10.5. enemy; 10.6. position



SESSION 11. ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE - PRESENTING THE LIVING SACRIFICE

- 11.1 The primary purpose of entering God’s presence in the midst of conflict is not to ask God to give us a desired _____, but to present our bodies as living sacrifices that He can use to accomplish His purpose. Rom. 12:1
- 11.2 We can enter God’s presence and draw near to Him anytime, not because we are _____, but solely as a result of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Heb. 10:19-22
- 11.3 The Bible teaches us to enter God’s presence with thanksgiving and _____. Psalm 100:4
- 11.4 When we enter God’s presence in prayer and seek Him in His Word, He can reveal to us the path of life and fill us with _____, even in the midst of conflict. Psalm 16:11
- 11.5 As we _____ with and wait on the Lord at the Peacefire, He changes our perspective, reveals His purpose, and fills us with His power to stand in the Conflict Wildfire as His ambassador of reconciliation.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What does it mean to you to present your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice?

RESPONSE:

- 2. On a practical level, what can you do to remind yourself to seek the Lord’s presence before responding to conflict?

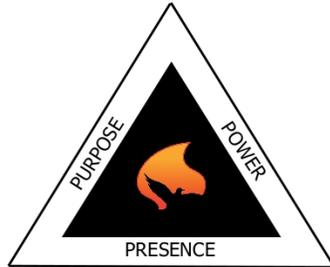
RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to present your body to Him as a daily living sacrifice to fill and use as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

ANSWERS: 11.1. outcome; 11.2. worthy; 11.3. praise; 11.4. joy; 11.5. fellowship

PURSuing GOD’S PURPOSE CHANGES YOUR PRIORITIES

SESSION 12. THREE THINGS EVERY CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER MUST KNOW - THE LORD IS ALWAYS AT WORK



THE PEACEFIRE TRIANGLE

- 12.1 The Lord is _____ at work. Psalm 121:4; John 5:17
- 12.2 He is always at work _____ for someone to empower and use for the glory of Jesus Christ. 2 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 6:8
- 12.3 He is always at work _____ His people into the image of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:10; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6
- 12.4 The Lord’s _____ is a path of life. Prov. 6:23
- 12.5 He is always at work making all things work together for good for those who love Him and are called according to _____ purpose. Romans 8:28

QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you seen the Lord at work in any of your past conflicts? If so, what was he doing?

RESPONSE:

- 2. How can the Lord use an existing conflict to transform you more into the image of Jesus Christ?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Thank the Father that He is always at work and ask Him for the grace to discern what He is doing in your conflicts so you can partner with Him.

ANSWERS: 12.1. always; 12.2. looking; 12.3. transforming; 12.4. correction; 12.5. His



**SESSION 13. THREE THINGS EVERY CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER MUST KNOW –
WE ARE CALLED TO PURSUE PEACE**

- 13.1 As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we are called to pursue _____ with all people. Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14; Rom. 14:19
- 13.2 In the heavenly kingdom, pursuing peace is more important than pursuing _____. 1 Cor. 6:7
- 13.3 Ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom pursue peace with all people by walking in _____ according to the way they have been loved by Jesus Christ. John 15:12
- 13.4 There is _____ in pursuing peace. Matthew 5:9
- 13.5 Pursuing peace plants seeds for _____. James 3:18

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God wants us to pursue peace with all people?

RESPONSE:

2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-7. Why do you think the Apostle Paul gave this advice to the Corinthian church rather than encourage them to pursue their rights in court?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to pursue peace with others in response to the manner in which He pursued peace with you through Jesus Christ.

ANSWERS: 13.1. peace; 13.2. rights; 13.3. love; 13.4. blessing; 13.5. revival



**SESSION 14. THREE THINGS EVERY CONFLICT FIREFIGHTER MUST KNOW –
GIVING THANKS**

- 14.1 Giving thanks brings you into the Lord's _____ - the place where He can accomplish His purpose in and through you.
- 14.2 It is God's _____ that you give Him thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thess. 5:18
- 14.3 Giving thanks is part of the process that enables us to experience the Lord's _____ when we have anxious/distracting thoughts during a conflict. Phil. 4:6-7
- 14.4 Giving thanks is part of the process that allows the peace of Jesus Christ to _____ (be the umpire) in our hearts. Col. 3:15

QUESTIONS

1. What is the umpire in your conflicts?

RESPONSE:

2. In the middle of a conflict, how might taking a moment to give thanks change your attitude toward those who are with you in the conflict? What can you give thanks for in your existing conflicts?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him to give you a thankful heart and the grace to give thanks in the midst of your conflicts.

ANSWERS: 14.1. presence; 14.2. will; 14.3. peace; 14.4. rule



SESSION 15. CONFLICT AND THE SPIRITUAL WAR

- 15.1 When we _____ our life to the Father through Jesus Christ, we begin a new life as a citizen of the heavenly kingdom – all things become new. John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17
- 15.2 We begin as _____ and grow to maturity, as we are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:29
- 15.3 As citizens of the heavenly kingdom, we become pilgrims, foreigners, and _____ in the worldly kingdom where we were once citizens. Heb. 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11a
- 15.4 Worldly kingdom thinking is motivated by our _____ desires – the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21
- 15.5 Heavenly kingdom thinking is _____. It is empowered by the Word of God and the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23
- 15.6 The Lord wants us to change the way we _____. He does not want us to conform to worldly kingdom thinking. He wants His ambassadors to walk in the Spirit with thinking based on His Word – His will. Romans 12:2
- 15.7 Citizens of the heavenly kingdom no longer regard people according to the _____ or the world system. We now regard people from the perspective of an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom. 2 Cor. 5:14-16
- 15.8 There is a _____ between the worldly kingdom and the heavenly kingdom. Every Ambassador participates in this war. 1 Peter 2:11b; Gal. 6:8; John 18:36; Gal. 5:16-17
- 15.9 Ambassadors who set their _____ on the things of the flesh/world when responding to conflict wildfires cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8
- 15.10 Understanding the war between the flesh and the Spirit helps an ambassador _____ which fire is igniting the responses to a conflict wildfire.
- 15.11 If works of the flesh are _____ in a wildfire, the remedy is to return to the Peacefire, acknowledge and confess your sin, and ask the Lord for grace to walk in the Spirit as His ambassador.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to “set your mind on the things of this world” in a conflict?

RESPONSE:

2. Read Colossians 3:1-3. What does it mean to you to apply this type of perspective in a conflict wildfire?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for wisdom to discern the spiritual warfare in your conflicts and for grace to walk in victory over the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in you.

ANSWERS: 15.1. surrender; 15.2. babes; 15.3. strangers; 15.4. natural; 15.5. supernatural; 15.6. think; 15.7. flesh; 15.8. war; 15.9. minds; 15.10. discern; 15.11. exposed



SESSION 16. THE ANATOMY OF A CONFLICT WILDFIRE

- 16.1 Conflict Wildfires begin in the _____ of the heart where the war between the flesh and the spirit is waged. James 4:1
- 16.2 The desires of the heart are expressed through our words and _____. Matt. 15:18-19
- 16.3 The conflict wildfire that is buried in our heart's desires begins to surface when our selfish/worldly desires are not _____. James 4:1-4
- 16.4 When we don't get what we want, we use _____ to pursue what we desire.
- 16.5 When we submit our desires to the flesh, we apply worldly, selfish, and unspiritual wisdom in conflict - no matter how well _____ it may sound or appear. James 3:14-16
- 16.6 When we submit our desires to the Spirit, we apply godly wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, courteous, full of compassion, impartial, and _____. James 3:17-18
- 16.7 The war between the flesh and the Spirit rages when we try to love the _____ and God at the same time. 1 John 2:15-16
- 16.8 At the Peacefire, my perspective on the conflict is governed by my _____ with Jesus Christ - what does He want me to do?
- 16.9 At the Wildfire, my perspective of the conflict is governed by my selfish _____ - how do I get what I want?
- 16.10 Our unmet desires create the conditions for a wildfire, but the Wildfire ignites when someone takes _____.

QUESTIONS

1. Are there desires that you wrestle with that lead to conflict with others? If so, what are they?

RESPONSE:

2. Do you believe that God always agrees with you when you are in a conflict? How can this type of thinking become problematic in light of James 4:1-4?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the gift of discernment and for grace to discern when your desires are not submitted to Him.

ANSWERS: 16.1. desires; 16.2. actions; 16.3. satisfied; 16.4. wisdom; 16.5. reasoned; 16.6. humble; 16.7. world; 16.8. relationship; 16.9. desires; 16.10. offense



SESSION 17. THE FIRETRAP OF OFFENSE

- 17.1 A firetrap is a building that, in the event of a fire, has _____ means of escape.
- 17.2 The root of the Greek New Testament word **σκάνδαλον** (skandalon), that is translated “offense,” “to sin,” “stumbling block”, etc., refers to the movable stick or trigger of a trap, or a trap stick; the place on a trap where the _____ is placed.
- 17.3 When we take offense, we _____ a conflict wildfire. We are snared in a trap with limited means of escape.
- 17.4 We choose to take offense. No one _____ us to take offense.
- 17.5 The progression of offense: a. I perceive; b. I exalt my self-interest; c. I judge; d. I justify; e. I _____.
- 17.6 Jesus warned against _____ offending a fellow Christian. Matthew 18:6
- 17.7 When we are focused on the Wildfire and what our flesh desires, we will sometimes stay in the trap of offense because we believe we have a “_____” to be offended.
- 17.8 When we are focused on the Peacefire and pursuing God’s purpose in the conflict, we will do whatever is necessary to get _____ from the firetrap of offense. Matthew 18:8-9

QUESTIONS

1. How is taking offense like being caught in a trap?

RESPONSE:

2. Are you caught in the trap of offense in any of your current or past conflicts? What can you do to get out of the trap?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for wisdom to understand the dynamics of offense from His perspective.

ANSWERS: 17.1. limited; 17.2. bait; 17.3. ignite; 17.4. forces; 17.5. demand; 17.6. intentionally; 17.7. right; 17.8.



SESSION 18. THE ENEMY’S PURPOSE AT THE TRAP OF OFFENSE

- 18.1 Satan is a liar, _____, thief and murderer. John 8:44; John 10:10
- 18.2 When we are trapped in offense, our focus is on the _____, not the Peacefire.
- 18.3 At the Firetrap of Offense, we are taken _____ by the enemy to do his will.
- 18.4 One of his goals is to _____ our walk with Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 2:26
- 18.5 Another of Satan’s goals at the firetrap is to tempt us to _____ those who wrong us. Matt. 18:10
- 18.6 It is not the person that wrongs us who steals our _____. Eph. 6:12
- 18.7 When we think we are _____ in despising a brother/sister in Christ, we are deceived. 1 John 4:20-21
- 18.8 We all cause and take offense from time to time. Remember, that the Lord is _____ at work!
- 18.9 We do not defeat the enemy’s Wildfire goals with worldly wisdom. _____ the devil and he will flee. James 4:7

QUESTIONS

- 1. Why do you think Jesus warns against despising someone who offends you?

RESPONSE:

- 2. How does getting snared in the trap of offense hinder your walk with Jesus Christ?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace and wisdom to see how offense hinders your relationship with God and others.

ANSWERS: 18.1. deceiver; 18.2. wildfire; 18.3. captive; 18.4. hinder; 18.5. despise; 18.6. peace; 18.7. justified; 18.8. always; 18.9. Resist



SESSION 19. GOD'S PURPOSE AT THE FIRETRAP OF OFFENSE - DELIVERANCE

- 19.1 The Lord is always at work around the trap of offense. There are _____ things that the Lord is always doing at the trap of offense.
- 19.2 _____ – Rescuing people from the trap of offense. Prov. 19:11; Matt. 16:21-23; Matt. 18:8-9
- 19.3 _____ – Taking what is exposed at the trap and transforming it into the image of Jesus Christ. Eph. 4:22-24; 1 John 1:8-9
- 19.4 _____ – Restoring the relationships damaged by the trap of offense. Matt. 7:3-5; 1 John 2:9-10; Romans 12:18,21
- 19.5 _____ the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8; 2 Cor. 10:4-6

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential to get free from the trap of offense before pursuing reconciliation in a conflict? Do you need to be delivered from the trap of offense?

RESPONSE:

2. How does the trap of offense provide you with opportunities to transform your relationships?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace for you to be transformed more into the image of Jesus Christ at the trap of offense.

ANSWERS: 19.1. four; 19.2. Deliverance; 19.3. Transformation; 19.4. Reconciliation; 19.5. Destroying



SESSION 20. DISCERNING YOUR ROLE IN A CONFLICT

- 20.1 There are four roles that exist in most conflicts. It is important to _____ your role.
- 20.2 _____ Party – The person or group that caused the offense.
- 20.3 _____ Party – The person or group that chose to take offense.
- 20.4 _____ – One who encourages any who will listen to be reconciled to God and to one another.
- 20.5 _____ - a person who is aware of a conflict, but has not been assigned as an ambassador. The intercessor has a burden for one or more of the people in the conflict. The intercessor continues in prayer over the situation for as long as the Lord directs.

QUESTIONS

1. In your conflicts, which role do you find yourself in more often, the offending party or the offended party? Explain.

RESPONSE:

2. Why is it important to have Ambassadors and Intercessors in the wildfire with you?

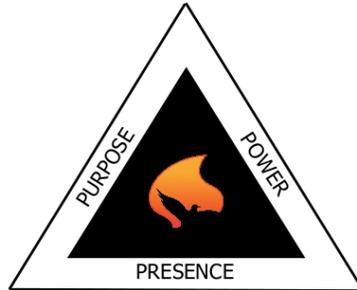
RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to serve Him as a faithful ambassador in all of your conflicts.

ANSWERS: 20.1. discern; 20.2. Offending; 20.3. Offended; 20.4. Ambassador; 20.5. Intercessor

RELYING ON GOD’S POWER CHANGES YOUR POSSIBILITIES

SESSION 21. STRANGE FIRE



THE PEACEFIRE TRIANGLE

- 21.1 Strange Fire is an attempt to do the Lord’s will in a manner that He has not approved or _____ . Lev. 10:1-2; Gen. 4:3-7; 1 Sam 13:1-14; 2 Chron. 26; Acts 5
- 21.2 In conflict, Strange Fire means coming to the Peacefire with your own _____ and asking the Lord to bless it rather than humbling yourself, seeking the Lord, and asking that He use you to fulfill His agenda.
- 21.3 Strange Fire represents the attempt to resolve conflict in some way other than total _____ on Jesus Christ.
- 21.4 Strange Fire focuses on bringing an end to the conflict by pursuing an acceptable outcome (win-win scenarios - a cease fire) that does not include _____ of relationship.
- 21.5 Strange Fire can never extinguish a Conflict Wildfire in a manner that _____ Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you ever use Strange Fire when responding to conflict? Explain.

RESPONSE:

2. What makes Strange Fire so attractive?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to discern the presence of Strange Fire in your conflicts.

ANSWERS: 21.1. authorized; 21.2. agenda; 21.3. reliance; 21.4. reconciliation; 21.5. glorifies



SESSION 22. WILDFIRE ACCELERANTS

- 22.1 Wildfire Accelerants represent worldly or flesh-driven attempts to _____ Conflict Wildfires.
- 22.2 A Wildfire Accelerant can never bring about the reconciliation and restoration of relationship that _____ Jesus Christ. They sometimes bring temporary relief to a Wildfire's intensity, but they do not have the power to extinguish it.
- 22.3 Examples of Wildfire Accelerants include: _____ (Prov. 8:13; 16:5, 18-19; 11:2; 13:10; 28:25-26; 2 Sam 22:28; James 4:6-7), revenge (Lev. 19:17-18; Prov. 24:29; Rom. 12:17-21; Heb. 10:30-31), anger (Ps. 37:8; Prov. 14:17; 15:1,18; 16:32; Eph. 4:26,27,31; James 1:20), lying (Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11; Ps. 55:21; Prov. 6:16-19; 12:22; Col. 3:9-10; 1 John 4:20), hatred (Lev. 19:17; Prov. 10:12, 18; 26:24-26), fear (Ps. 56:3-4; Prov. 29:25; Matt. 10:28-31; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 John 4:18), unforgiveness/bitterness (Eph. 4:31; Heb. 12:15; James 3:14-16), scorn & mockery (Ps. 1:1-2; Prov. 22:10; 29:8), and gossip (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 20:19, 25:9-10).
- 22.4 Ask the Lord to replace the exposed accelerant with the character and attributes that _____ the presence of Jesus Christ in you.

QUESTIONS

1. What wildfire accelerants do you display most frequently in conflict?

RESPONSE:

2. As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, what prayer strategies might you implement to overcome the power of wildfire accelerants?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for grace to discern wildfire accelerants when they are present and for the grace to bring them quickly to the Peacefire.

ANSWERS: 22.1. extinguish; 22.2. glorifies; 22.3. pride; 22.4. reflect



SESSION 23. A PEACEFIRE ACCELERANT

- 23.1 While there are many accelerants that can increase the intensity of a Conflict Wildfire, there is one accelerant that brings God's Peacefire _____ into a conflict - God's agape love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
- 23.2 God's agape love is _____, unearned, and unconditional.
- 23.3 The _____ love that the Father provides in a Conflict Wildfire is received when we abide in Jesus Christ - the Peacefire. John 15:9-12
- 23.4 The power of God's love sends us to the Wildfire as His _____ of reconciliation - to treat others how God has treated us. 2 Cor. 5:18-20
- 23.5 We love others not because they earn it or deserve it. It is the love of Jesus Christ in us that empowers us to look beyond our desired outcome to pursue _____ and reconciliation.

QUESTIONS

- 1. When responding to conflict, what difference can it make when your attitude is motivated and empowered by the love you receive from Jesus Christ?

RESPONSE:

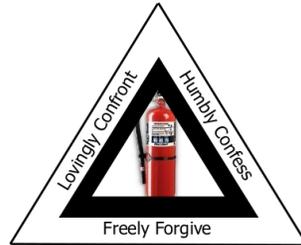
- 2. How does the fact that God loved you while you were a sinner impact the way that you treat others in a Conflict Wildfire?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for grace to see the opportunities in every conflict to respond to others with His astonishing love.

ANSWERS: 23.1. power; 23.2. undeserved; 23.3. supernatural; 23.4. ambassadors; 23.5. peace

SESSION 24. THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE



THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE

- 24.1 Reconciliation is the manifestation of the presence of God's _____ in a conflict.
- 24.2 Rescuing a relationship from a Conflict Wildfire is like pursuing a _____ sheep. Matt. 18:12-14
- 24.3 The _____ Triangle identifies the three steps on the path to relationship reconciliation. 1. Confront in Love; 2. Humbly Confess Your Sin; and 3. Freely Forgive
- 24.4 The _____ between the flesh and the Spirit can be encountered at any stage of the reconciliation process.
- 24.5 The fire rescue is not a _____ that guarantees reconciliation. Romans 12:18
- 24.6 The goal at every stage of confrontation is the pursuit of reconciliation, the loving pursuit of lost sheep and not the pursuit of our own _____ or desired outcome.
- 24.7 Regardless of how others respond, we can experience the Lord's peace when we remain in God's love at the Peacefire and _____ others the way the Father has treated us in Jesus Christ - with grace, truth, and mercy.

QUESTIONS

1. Are there any "logs" in your eye that the Lord wants you to remove today?

RESPONSE:

2. How does understanding the Lord's purposes in conflict affect the way you confront others?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for grace to discern when you have a self-righteous log in your eye.



SESSION 25. THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE - LOVING CONFRONTATION

- 25.1 Whether someone sins against us or we sin against them, we are to go to them alone to _____ the situation. Matt. 18:15; Matt. 5:23-24
- 25.2 If an initial confrontation does not result in reconciliation, the Lord instructs us to take two or three others with us to try _____. Matt. 18:16
- 25.3 If a second confrontation does not result in reconciliation, the Lord instructs us to turn the matter over to the _____. Matt. 18:17a
- 25.4 When we confront a brother or sister, we are to go in a spirit of _____, remaining wary of temptation. Gal. 6:1
- 25.5 Spending time with the Lord at the Peacefire prepares us for a loving confrontation that is _____ led, rather than a hostile confrontation motivated by the flesh and the forces at work in the Wildfire.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What temptations can exist when the person you confront sees things differently than you do?

RESPONSE:

- 2. Do you find it difficult to confront someone who sins against you? Explain.

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to always confront others gently and in love.

ANSWERS: 25.1. confront; 25.2. again; 25.3. church; 25.4. gentleness; 25.5. Spirit



SESSION 26. THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE - HUMBLY CONFESS

- 26.1 There are three _____ responses to confrontation: 1. A Hard Heart; 2. An Open Heart; and 3. A Broken Heart.
- 26.2 The _____ heart is offended by the confrontation and resists the opportunity to reconcile.
- 26.3 The _____ heart may deny or disagree with the content of the confrontation, but is willing to dialogue toward reconciliation.
- 26.4 The _____ heart will reflect grief/sorrow.
- 26.5 _____ sorrow produces self-pity, excuses, embarrassment, blame, and a victim mentality. Godly sorrow produces repentance - a change in direction. 2 Cor. 7:10
- 26.6 The first response after our sin is exposed is to _____ with God by humbly confessing our sin to Him. Psalm 51:4; 1 John 1:9.
- 26.7 The second response after our sin is exposed is to confess our sin to those affected by it and to _____ for them. James 5:16
- 26.8 How a confession is communicated has a significant impact on whether reconciliation will occur - _____ with grace and wisdom.
- 26.9 The most powerful words in confession, "Will you _____ me?"

QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it difficult to confess your sins to those you have sinned against? Why or why not?

RESPONSE:

2. Why is it important to confess our sin to God first, before we confess to those we sin against? Is there anything that the Lord wants you to confess to someone today?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Lord and ask Him for the grace to confess your sin in a manner that glorifies Jesus Christ.

ANSWERS: 26.1. heart; 26.2. hard; 26.3. open; 26.4. broken; 26.5. Worldly; 26.6. reconcile; 26.7. pray; 26.8. communicate; 26.9 forgive



SESSION 27. THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE - FREELY FORGIVE

- 27.1 When sin is confessed and forgiveness requested, the Lord _____ us to forgive. Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4; Matt. 18:23-35; Eph. 4:32
- 27.2 We cannot earn or deserve God’s forgiveness; therefore, we have no right to _____ such requirements on those who wrong us.
- 27.3 Our _____ to forgive flows from the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 2:20; Luke 23:34a
- 27.4 When we refuse to forgive, we open ourselves to spiritual bondage and _____ until we forgive. Matt. 18:23-35
- 27.5 The words that can _____ the Wildfire - “I forgive you.”

QUESTIONS

- 1. Is there anyone you need to forgive today? Explain.

RESPONSE:

- 2. Do you find it difficult to freely forgive others? If so, why?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to forgive others from a heart motivated by the forgiveness you have received from the Father.

ANSWERS: 27.1. commands; 27.2. impose; 27.3. ability; 27.4. torment; 27.5. extinguish



SESSION 28. THE RECONCILIATION TRIANGLE AND THE TRAP OF OFFENSE

- 28.1 The reconciliation triangle - confrontation, confession, and forgiveness - is not a _____ that guarantees reconciliation in every conflict.
- 28.2 At every stage of the reconciliation process the world, the flesh, and the devil will work to keep the Wildfire burning until they get what they want. The enemy will _____ the trap of offense at each stage.
- 28.3 If offense occurs during attempts at reconciliation, _____ at the Peacefire, give thanks, and wait patiently on the Lord.
- 28.4 Our _____ and reconciliation flows from our relationship with God, not from the conflicted relationship. Romans 12:18

QUESTIONS

1. In your relationship conflicts, have you experienced any of the dynamics mentioned in this session? If so, which ones?

RESPONSE:

2. How can understanding the relationship between the reconciliation triangle and the trap of offense help you persevere in the pursuit of peace with all people?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and ask Him for the grace to persevere in the pursuit of peace with others.

ANSWERS: 28.1. formula; 28.2. bait; 28.3. remain; 28.4. peace



SESSION 29. WHEN A FIRE RESCUE FAILS - THE FIREBREAK

- 29.1 A spiritual firebreak represents a break in _____ spiritual fellowship with a brother or sister in Christ who refuses to repent and reconcile a broken relationship. We are to avoid them until they are willing to repent. Romans 16:17.
- 29.2 We do not argue with them over _____. 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- 29.3 At the _____, we treat the unrepentant brother or sister evangelistically, as someone who does not know the Lord, rather than as a member of the Body of Christ.
- 29.4 The ultimate purpose of the firebreak is to _____ God's love for lost sheep in order to lead them to repentance and restoration.
- 29.5 The firebreak stage of the Fire Rescue is often a place of _____ spiritual warfare.
- 29.6 The unrepentant brother or sister is not your _____. Matt. 18:18-20; Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:4-5
- 29.7 Sometimes we must _____ in the firebreak for days, weeks, months and even years before reconciliation occurs.
- 29.8 The following temptations exist in the firebreak: (1) the temptation to become _____; and (2) the temptation to treat those who oppose you as enemies rather than as lost sheep; and (3) the temptation to think you are "right" to the point where your "truth" overwhelms God's mercy.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways can the Lord transform you in the firebreak?

RESPONSE:

2. What is the most difficult aspect of a firebreak situation?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Lord and ask Him for grace to serve Him as a faithful ambassador in firebreak situations.

ANSWERS: 29.1. intimate; 29.2. words; 29.3. firebreak; 29.4. reaffirm; 29.5. intense; 29.6. enemy; 29.7. wait; 29.8. bitter



SESSION 30. THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR – THE AMBASSADOR’S MINDSET

- 30.1 Ambassadors have a unique _____ that influences their perspective and interpretation of situations.
- 30.2 Ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom have been _____ the mindset of Jesus Christ.
- 30.3 Three aspects of the Jesus Mindset help us understand our role as ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom: total _____ before the Father (Phil. 2:6-8a; Matt. 18:1-4; Phil. 2:9-11); a relentless reliance on the Father (John 5:19; John 12:49-50; John 5:30a); and complete obedience to the Father (Phil. 2:8; Matt. 26:39).
- 30.4 The Lord _____ that His ambassadors have His mindset. Phil. 2:5
- 30.5 Jesus _____ us as His ambassadors into this world in the same way that the Father sent Him. John 20:21
- 30.6 Developing an ambassador’s mindset is a _____ of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:12-16

QUESTIONS

- 1. What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ to other parties in a conflict?

RESPONSE:

- 2. Does anything prevent or hinder you from serving as an ambassador of Jesus Christ to other people in a conflict/wildfire?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Father and thank Him for the mind/attitude of Jesus Christ that He makes available to His people.

ANSWERS: 30.1. mindset; 30.2. given; 30.3. humility; 30.4. desires; 30.5. sends; 30.6. work



SESSION 31. THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR – THE AMBASSADOR’S POWER

- 31.1 Jesus Christ is the _____ of the Ambassador’s power. Through the Holy Spirit, the Lord provides us with three resources to serve Him. 2 Timothy 1:7
- 31.2 Power – The same Holy Spirit that indwelt Jesus _____ in us. It is the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead. This gives us power to obey the Father. Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38a; Eph. 1:19-20; 2 Peter 1:3
- 31.3 Love – God’s agape love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This powerful love equips us to love others the way Jesus loved us – including the power to love our _____. Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:18; Romans 8:35-39
- 31.4 A Sound Mind – The Holy Spirit helps us renew our mind and change the way we _____ as an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Romans 12:2; Eph. 4:20-24
- 31.5 Prayer – Our indispensable line of _____ to the Throne Room of Heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit without a vibrant prayer life? Are you content with your prayer life? Do you pray regularly for the people with whom you are in conflict?

RESPONSE:

2. In what ways has the Lord used the Two Fires of Conflict course to change the way you think about peace and/or conflict?

RESPONSE:

Prayer Challenge: Praise the Lord and ask Him for the grace to serve Him honorably as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

ANSWERS: 31.1. source; 31.2. lives; 31.3. enemies; 31.4. think; 31.5. communication