

Bold Conversations

Facing Giants – Series

Ps. Unia Kiima– 17th July 2017

LG Discussions



This week as we face the giants in our lives we look at the topic **Bold Conversations** also called **Real Conversations** or **Hard Conversations**. People are afraid of confrontation

Read: Ephesians 4: 14& 15 and James 3:13- 4:6

Why it is so difficult for us to have bold conversations?

1. **We presume we know how it's going to play out:** We think we know what's going to happen: This can either make us pretty anxious or apprehensive.
2. **We are afraid of the other persons reaction.** This leaves us very exposed, vulnerable and with a feeling of neediness that we usually would rather avoid.

What do we naturally resort to?

We convince ourselves that it is safer to **avoid hard conversations, ignore the issue or try to forget about it.**

- **The Passive path:** Peacekeeper rather than peacemaker; you allow for false peace at any cost.
- **The evasive path:** Avoid dealing with the deep issues. You pretend it is well.
- **The Defensive path:** Protect oneself. Coming off as the right one with no fault.
- **The Aggressive path:** Destroy the other person because we fail to forget about it and instead go around bad mouthing the other party.

How does the bible say we should handle these situations that need to be confronted?

- **Begin with the goal of reconciliation:** Through the bond of peace. **Read** James 5:1 and 2 Corinthians. 5:11-21.
- **Have direct one –on- one conversation:** Wisely prepare for the meeting. . Ask yourself how did it make you feel? What about it offended you? Why?
- **Seek to understand rather than be understood:** With humility, listen to the other part and hear them out. Allow for the fact that you might be wrong.
- **Allow time for others to process:** Through Selflessness. Allow them time to process.
- **Commit to doing your part and leave the rest to the Lord:** Through Surrender: Choose peace and reconciliation.

Discussions

1. How has avoiding conversations affected you personally?
2. Are there situations where having bold conversations did not work out for you? What do you think may have caused this?
3. Silently think about the four options taken to avoid bold conversations listed above. (Passive, Evasive, Defensive and Aggressive paths). Which one(s) do you tend to resort to? Write down practical steps that you can do to resolve issues in future.
4. What was your takeout for this sermon?

- **Speak the truth in love**