



The Fine  
Art of  
Disagreement

**SMALL  
GROUP  
STUDY**

## Session One

### *Why Do We Believe What We Believe?*

Read **2 Timothy 3:10-17** aloud in your group.

#### ▶ Clip #1 - How Do We Disagree with Others as Christians?

- Do you disagree with others (family, coworkers, etc) in a way that is honoring to God? Explain.

#### ▶ Clip #2 – The Bible Is the Foundation of our Faith that Points Us to Jesus

- What is your view of Scripture? Is your life based on it?
- How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you? Convict you? Correct you? Train you in righteousness?

#### ▶ Clip #3 – The Bible as our Authority and Ultimate Arbitrator

- What is your primary authority?
- When culture and the Bible clash, which do you gravitate toward?
- Do you use Scripture to critique or justify culture?

#### ▶ Clip #4 – What Do We Do When the Bible Isn't Clear?

- Where do your beliefs come from when the Bible isn't clear?
- What are your thoughts on Jaroslav Pelikan's quote: "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. It is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name"?
- When Scripture is vague, which Methodist tradition (tradition, experience or reason) most influences what you believe and how you live your life?

#### ▶ Clip #5 – What Do You Believe and Why Is It Important?

- Has your faith ever been challenged? How so?
- Why do you believe what you believe?

## Session Two

### *Essentials & Non-Essentials*

Read **2 Timothy 2:14-26** aloud in your group.

#### ▶ Clip #1 - Remember to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

- What are the main things (the essentials)?
- How do you identify them? (refer to the Apostle's Creed)

#### ▶ Clip #2 - Know When to Stand Down

- Where do you need to stand down?
- How is your quarrelling impacting the people around you?

#### ▶ Clip #3 - Know When to Stand

- Where do you need to take a stand?

#### ▶ Clip #4 - Have the Wisdom to Look Within

- Are you quarrelsome? Do you seek to win arguments or people?
- What arguments in your own life have distracted you from seeing your opponents as people whom God loves and Jesus died for?
- Paul instructed Timothy to watch his own heart (v. 22), bite his tongue (v. 23-24) and love his opponents (v. 25-26). How can you improve in these areas?

## Session Three

### *Disagreement & Love*

Read **Proverbs 15:1-3, Philippians 4:1-3** aloud in your group.

#### ▶ **Clip #1 – Conflict Is Unavoidable/How We Handle It Is Important**

- Do you hate conflict? Or want conflict?
- People = Conflict; the Church IS People; Conflict and the Church are inseparable. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?

#### ▶ **Clip #2 – What Are Your Boundaries and How to Sort Through Them**

- Think about Core/Dogma, Important Doctrine and Opinion. What beliefs and boundaries do you have? Which category do they belong in?
- In which category do you most often experience conflict - the Core category (if you don't agree with me, you can leave)? Or the Opinion category (whatever everyone else thinks is fine... nothing is worth struggling over)?
- How do you respond to people who disagree with you in each category? How should you respond?

#### ▶ **Clip #3 - Titus Relationships**

- How are you a divisive person? How do you handle divisive people?
- Do you view people through fear or curiosity?

#### ▶ **Clip #4 - Have the Same Mind in the Lord**

- What does it mean to have the same mind in the Lord?
- Are you laying down your life for others when you disagree?
- Whom do you disagree with AND love?

## Session Four

### *A Case Study*

Read **John 4:4-24** aloud in your group.

#### ▶ **Clip #1 - Who Do We Want to be Like?**

- Who in your life have you tried to imitate? (personal life, work, hobbies)

#### ▶ **Clip #2 - Our Posture vs. Our Position**

- Who do you have in your life who is “for you,” even though they may disagree with you?
- How do you know they love you?

#### ▶ **Clip #3 - So What Do We Do?**

Read **1 Peter 4:17** aloud in your group

- What does Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well tell us about him?
- What, in this message clip or passage of Scripture, gets your attention?

#### ▶ **Clip #4 - Being a Friend of Sinners Like Jesus Was**

Read **1 Peter 3:15** aloud in your group

- Who/what are some people/subjects you have a hard time engaging with gentleness and respect?
- What would it look like for people to call you a “friend of sinners” like Jesus?
- What would it look like for us to be a church where we were known for being friends of sinners?
- What is one step the Holy Spirit is asking you to take in this area?



—¿Y tu mujer? —me dijo.  
 —Esa a punto —respondí destilado.  
 —¡Basta pronto! ¡Basta o no vamos a poder a comer el frías  
 Me pareció imposible luchar contra mi destino. ¡Pero  
 En aquel momento mi no podía adentrarme en mi mundo  
 Gracien los ruidos de la casa. Mi encantadora virgenidad  
 de mi no.

hierro de Altona. En un momento se llenó con la balumba de faldas  
 Ahababa de llegar un espacioso coche para llevarnos al camino de  
 A las cinco y media se oyó el ruido de las ruedas de un carruaje  
 estaba allí, y no dijo una palabra. No pude pasar un instante  
 Devoraba. Yo le mire con un sentimiento de horror. Pero Gracien  
 con y de farsa. Bajó al comedor. Mi no estaba sentado a la mesa.  
 Me levante a las cinco, quebrantado, molido, ruidido de  
 más que una caída interminable.

ereciete de los cuerpos abandonados en el espacio. Mi vida me era  
 gido por la vigorosa mano del profesor, arrastrado, despedido, hu  
 La pasé soñando con precipicio. Estaba deprimido. Me sentía co  
 Durante la noche el terror me asaltó de nuevo.

—Hasta mañana por la mañana —dijo mi no—, partimos a las  
 A las diez de la noche me dije caer sobre mi cama como un  
 cuerpo muerto.

—¿Y os lleva consigo?  
 —¿A dónde? —dijo ella.  
 —¿Al sótano? —exclamó la pobre anciana.  
 —No —dijo yo—. ¡Mas abajo!  
 —Hasta mañana por la mañana —dijo mi no—, partimos a las  
 seis en punto.

Julio Verne