

CREATION: CREATED FOR *SHALOM*

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

The Biblical Concept of *Shalom*

- *Shalom* discussed 225 times in the OT and is understood to mean: “complete, sound, or whole; universal flourishing”
- Four categories:
 - **Wholeness** of life or body (i.e., health)
 - **Harmony** or right relationship between two people, often established by a covenant
 - **Flourishing**, prosperity, or fulfillment
 - **Peace** through the absence of war

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Eugene Peterson Defines *Shalom*

“Shalom, peace, is one of the richest words in the Bible. You can no more define it by looking up its meaning in the dictionary than you can define a person by his social security number. It gathers all aspects of wholeness that result from God’s will being completed in us.”

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Shalom Shattered

- The unweaving of *shalom* in every relationship (Gen. 3)
 - Vertically with God
 - Horizontally with others
 - Internally with self
 - Universally with creation
- The consequences of the Fall, and the loss of *shalom*, meant a life of frustration, conflict, fallenness, brokenness, and pain
- The beautiful tapestry of *shalom* was unraveled

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Created to Experience *Shalom*



Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

What We Currently Experience



Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

FALL: LIVING IN CONFLICT

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Insert Here

We Live in a World of Conflict

- Conflict can stem from humaneness
 - Limits and boundaries
 - God-given differences
 - Time and space
- Conflicts can stem from fallenness
 - Misunderstanding
 - Miscommunication
 - Forgetfulness
- Conflicts can stem from sinfulness
 - Intentional
 - Unintentional
 - Omission
 - Commission

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Insert Here

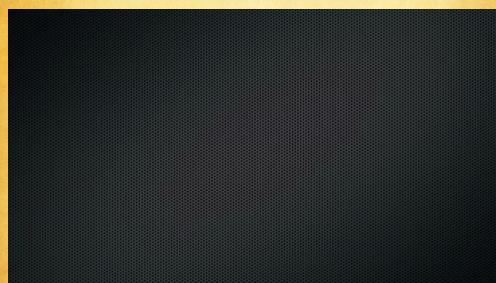
Definition of Conflict

- “Conflict happens when you are at odds with another person over what you think, want, or do” (Ken Sande, 14)
- Conflict exists when one person doesn’t get what they want or need
- Conflict is a relational rupture that unweaves *shalom*

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Insert Here

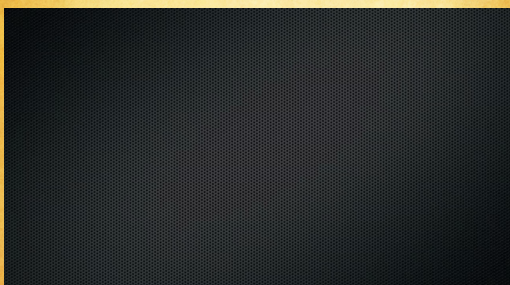
Response To Conflict #1



Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Insert Here

Response to Conflict #2



Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

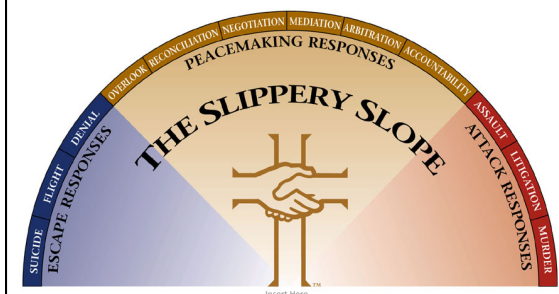
Insert Here

Group Exercise

- In small groups of three or four discuss the following:
 - What response is the most natural to you?
 - Escape/Flight
 - Attack/Fight
 - What impact does your natural response have on the conflict?
 - How aware of your natural conflict style are you?

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

The Slippery Slope of Conflict



Homework

- Pick one day this week and count how many conflicts you experience
 - First hand: Participate in
 - Second hand: Witness or observe
 - Third hand: Hear about through another person
- Be prepared to share your experience with the class

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES

Personalized Homework

- Take time and prayerfully reflect on the following:
 - Is there a conflict you have experienced, or are currently experiencing, that is not fully reconciled?
 - How has that conflict impacted your heart?
 - How did you respond, or are responding, to the conflict?
 - Ask God to reveal to you anything you might need to take in order to work through the conflict.
 - Surrender the conflict (and its outcome) over to God and give him permission to write the story as he sees fit.

Live at Peace
MINISTRIES