

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of May 25, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** How to handle Church conflict when personalities and methodologies collide.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 15:36–41

**Related Texts:** Acts 4:36, 11:24, 13:13; 1 Corinthians 9:6; Colossians 4:10; Romans 12:16-18; 2 Timothy 4:11

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What does Paul's desire to return to the cities they've visited and check in on the Christians show us about discipleship?
- What is the cause of the conflict between Paul and Barnabas?
- Given the circumstances, which brother do you tend to relate more with, Barnabas or Paul?
- How do our strengths blind us to our weaknesses?
- Was this disagreement rooted in theology? Does it have a clear, definitive right or wrong response?
- In what ways did the handling of the conflict at the Jerusalem Council differ from the conflict between Paul and Barnabas?
- This sharp disagreement caused Paul and Barnabas to go their separate ways. However, given the scriptural support, they parted in a healthy manner.
  - Have you ever been involved in a conflict that caused separation? Was it healthy or unhealthy?
  - Is there someone in your life that you need to seek forgiveness from or offer forgiveness to due to an unhealthy conflict?
- Does this conflict between Paul and Barnabas hinder the mission? If not, why not? How do we see the sovereignty of God in this situation?
- What does this situation teach us about community?
- What does this situation teach us about the impact of the gospel on our community?
- Discuss the three perspectives that the Pastor mentioned when dealing with conflict.
  - PRIORITIZE - Look up! Remember to glorify God.
  - ANALYZE - Look In! Remember the log in your eye.
  - VERBALIZE - Look out! Go and discuss the issues if necessary.

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- While we were yet sinners and in greatest disagreement with God (rebellion), Jesus Christ died for us to reconcile us with God.
- Through faith in the atoning work and person of Jesus Christ we are all part of one family.
- Just like any other family there will be disagreements. But if we are centered on Christ and the Gospel the disagreement won't hinder our relationships with one another or our mission to declare the gospel, even if we go our separate ways.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray that we would be good stewards of conflict, and that God would be glorified in it.
- Pray that we will grow in Christ-likeness as we work through our differences.

**Next Week's Text:** Acts 16:1–10