



Staying Power in Marriage

LEADER TIPS: You will want to tailor the discussion to the your group. If they are married or dating you can focus on those kinds of relationships. If they are not, apply this to family, friends, and coworkers.

WARM UP

What was a time when you got into big trouble with your parents?

SET IT UP

We carry into every relationship of a box filled with our hopes, dreams, and desires. Before long they become our expectations. But when things don't go according to the dream the relationship can go downhill. Before long we are enduring instead of enjoying each other. James tells us where the conflict comes from: misplaced desires. Let's talk about it.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did Pastor Steve say about couples who have been married for a long time (40, 50, Or 60 years) know that others don't?
2. What is some of the best relationship advice you've heard?
3. When it comes to conflict do you tend to get louder or quieter?
4. Where did James say the source of our conflict comes from? (James 4:1)
5. Pastor Steve said, "If you really want to fix the problem, go first."
 - What does that look like in a relationship?
 - Are you usually quick or slow to admit when you've been wrong? Why or why not?
6. Read Matthew 7:1-5. What point is Jesus making here?
7. Why do we try to fix the other person first?
8. What is the problem with trying to fix the other person first?

9. What has helped you navigate conflict in your own life? Be practical.

WRAP IT UP

Pastor Steve said, *“The fight between us comes from inside of us. If you really want to fix it, go first.”* Make it your goal this week to step back from conflict, understand your own desires, and then re-engage with humility!

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time now to pray over the young adults in your life.