



Sermon Based Questions

"That Ship Has NOT Sailed: Courageous Conversations" – Nathan Blais

November 9, 2025

Conflict is inevitable when imperfect people share life together, but our response can deepen wounds or build trust. God calls us to have “courageous conversations”—to face what’s beneath our quarrels, speak with grace, listen well, and forgive as Christ forgives us.

Share

1. When conflict pops up, are you more likely to **bottle it up**, **cover it up**, **patch it up**, or **blow it up**? Share a low-stakes example with the group.
2. What was the predominant way conflict was handled in your family of origin? How much did that environment shape your default reaction to conflict and tension in relationships?

Discuss

3. **Read - James 4:1–3** - According to James, what’s beneath our quarrels? Think of a recent conflict in your life — what deeper need, fear, or expectation was really beneath it?
4. **Read - Ephesians 4:26–27** - Paul says “be angry and do not sin”. Did you know that it is possible to have strong emotions without letting them cause you to sin? What emotion most frequently surfaces for you in conflict? How can you express that emotion without sinning?

Reflect

5. Paul says “do not let the sun go down on your **anger**, and give no **opportunity** to the devil.” While we are not talking about it - the devil is! Have you ever experienced the voice of the enemy filling your head with lies while conflict is unspoken or unresolved?
6. Which of the four keys is hardest for you right now—start gently, express without criticism, listen to understand, or forgive/keep the door open? Why?

Apply

7. Identify one relationship that needs a “courageous conversation.” What would a gentle, positive opening line sound like?
8. Using the sermon’s framework, identify your next step:
 - a. For a boundary issue—show grace, talk face-to-face, create space if needed.
 - b. For miscommunication or unmet expectations—share your feelings without blame and ask a question that helps you listen well.