

## Whoa! It's Me!

A Community of Peace	[it's only natural]	Going Deeper—Living it Out	Describe how you tend to respond when conflict arises in your life.
	Genesis 3		
	Luke 12.13-15		Why do you think we are so quick to blame others when conflict arises?
	[Watch out!] Blame-		Why is it so important to look at ourselves first when it comes to conflict?
	Psalm 73.21-22		Define the idea of idols. How is it possible that we actually have so many of them in our lives?
	[look at yourself] Matthew 7.3-5		Describe the progression of an idol in our lives. How have you seen this played out in your life?
Luke 12.15	What are some of your root desires? How would you complete this statement: "If only _____, then I would be happy, fulfilled, and secure."		
James 4.1-3 Idols-	When a certain desire is not met, do you feel frustration, anxiety, resentment, bitterness, anger or depression? Why?		

A Community of Peace	[putting it together]	Going Deeper—Living it Out	What makes us think that we need or deserve to have those desires satisfied?
	Real peace and redemption		
	Ezekiel 36.25-27		How do you judge and punish those around you when your idols are not being satisfied? How does this behavior affect others?
	Conflict always reveals and changes us. The question is, "how?"		What attributes, promises or activities of God can you celebrate and depend on for happiness, fulfillment and security in order to diminish the appeal and power of the idolatrous desires?
	[big questions]		What can we do to diminish the influence of hidden idolatry within our families, relationships, and church?
	What desires do I have that sometimes grow into controlling demands or idols that trigger or aggravate conflict?		
Am I willing to let go of those idols and experience God's refreshing forgiveness?			
How will I seek to worship and delight myself in God more fully?			
[next step]			
I will think of someone who has been affected by my idols. I will write a brief but clear description of the progression of that idol (the initial desire, why it became a demand, and how I judged and punished the other person.			
	<b>MEMORIZE THIS!</b>		
	<sup>1</sup> What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?		
	James 4.1 (NIV)		