

# From Conflict to Community

## Part 1, Genesis 37:1-11

1. What do you think causes more conflicts than anything else?
2. How much of the Bible deals with conflicts? What are some obvious passages?
3. Read Isaiah 53. How will conflict impact the life of the Messiah? How will the life and death of the Messiah impact upon a world of conflict?
4. *“There are two different kinds of conflict experiences – a general conflict experience in which we play a part and in which there is a lot that can be done in terms of conflict resolution. And a conflict experience in which one person is virtually an innocent party experiencing conflict because of someone else’s inability to deal with stress or mental illness or personality disorders or drug and alcohol addictions”.* Why is it pastorally important to understand the difference between these two types of conflict?
5. Read Genesis 37:1-11  
What is the first thing we learn about Joseph (verse 2)? What does this tell us about his character?
6. What is the second thing we learn about Joseph (verse 3) How does this explain his character?
7. What does favouritism do to communities? Have you seen the impact of favouritism in your family, work place, church?
8. What did the oldest brothers expect out of life? How do the brothers handle the fact that everything they expected from life, their youngest brother is getting?
9. It is one thing to have a dream in which your whole family is bowing down to you, it is another thing to tell them all. What does this tell us about Joseph’s emotional intelligence? (Emotional intelligence is the capacity to judge the emotional impact of behaviours and events on other people)
11. Three helpful questions for Christians resolving conflict
  1. What are the expectations?
  2. What is the right thing to do?
  3. How do I care for this person?
12. Which of these three is the most difficult? Why?
13. Is there any conflict impacting on your world at the moment? Can you pray for each other’s situations?