

THE HANGOVER

Turn last year's mess into a year of meaning



Part Five: Finding Meaning When You Disagree // Jeff Brodie // February 7, 2021

2020 was a year when our world became more polarized and opinionated than ever. On top of that, it seems like there is serious hostility in the air when people disagree. Debate, discussion, and civil discourse are crucial as we look to learn, grow, and live at peace with those around us. How do you navigate meaningful conversations with those around you when you disagree?

Scripture: [Proverbs 17:28-18:4](#), [18:21](#) NLT, [Luke 6:45](#) NLT

Bottom Line: For meaningful conversation, focus on having the right posture, not the right position.

Getting Started:

1. Would you agree that our world has become more polarized and opinionated? Where have you seen that to be most true?
2. What issues do you think were most divisive in 2020?

Jumping In:

3. Jeff shared how our current culture of digital connectedness has become an echo chamber for many of us, leading to tribalism and confirmation bias. Would you agree or disagree with this?
4. On a scale of 1 to 5...
 - a. How much time do you spend having meaningful conversations with actual people who disagree with you on various issues?
 - b. How much time do you spend reading news articles that highlight the opposite side of the argument?
5. Jeff shared about a phenomenon known as "The Beginner's Bubble." Have you been in a conversation with someone who was at the crest of the bubble? Or maybe you have found yourself in that position? Share how you felt at that time.

Discuss:

6. Read [Proverbs 17:28-18:4](#) and [18:21](#). What strikes you about these verses?
7. This passage, and many others in Proverbs, emphasize listening and understanding as characteristics of those who are wise. Why do you think we lack curiosity or a desire to understand when we are in conversations? How can we grow in that?
8. Read [Luke 6:45](#). Our tongue is an indicator of what's in our heart, and tone is a big part of that. How can you maintain a tone that makes a person feel safe, even when you disagree with them? What do life-giving words feel like when you disagree with someone?
9. Part of having meaningful conversations is recognizing that it's not about winning the argument or convincing the other person, but rather changing the posture of your heart. You can win the argument and lose the relationship. How does it feel when you don't resolve the argument or feel misunderstood?
10. Reminder: Scripture records Jesus having some very meaningful conversations with people he encountered, but in the end he was misunderstood and suffered. He led with a humble heart motivated by love. He experienced both suffering and redemption. How does Jesus' life challenge you or inspire you?

Moving Forward:

Read [Matthew 16:26](#). As we wrap up this series looking at meaning itself, and meaning in relationships, time, success, suffering, and conversations, what will be your biggest takeaway? Spend a few moments as a group and ask God to continue to give you the courage to make 2021 a year of more meaning.