THE CONFLICT THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

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When families get together, conflict can abound. We can get frustrated with each other instead of celebrating with each other. James reminds us that, instead of fighting with others, we can trust in God to bring ultimate justice to all, even when we feel as though others have wronged us.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. – James 4:1-3

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor? – James 4:8-12

Notes:

My Next Step(s):

- o I will strive to put others' needs before my desires.
- o I will not push God to the margins (marginalize) of my life.
- o I will strive to resolve my conflicts with God first—then with others.
- o In humility, I will not assume the worst in others, but rather assume the best.
- In charity, I will put the best construction on people, things & situations.

Memory Verse: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. - Romans 12:18 (NIV)



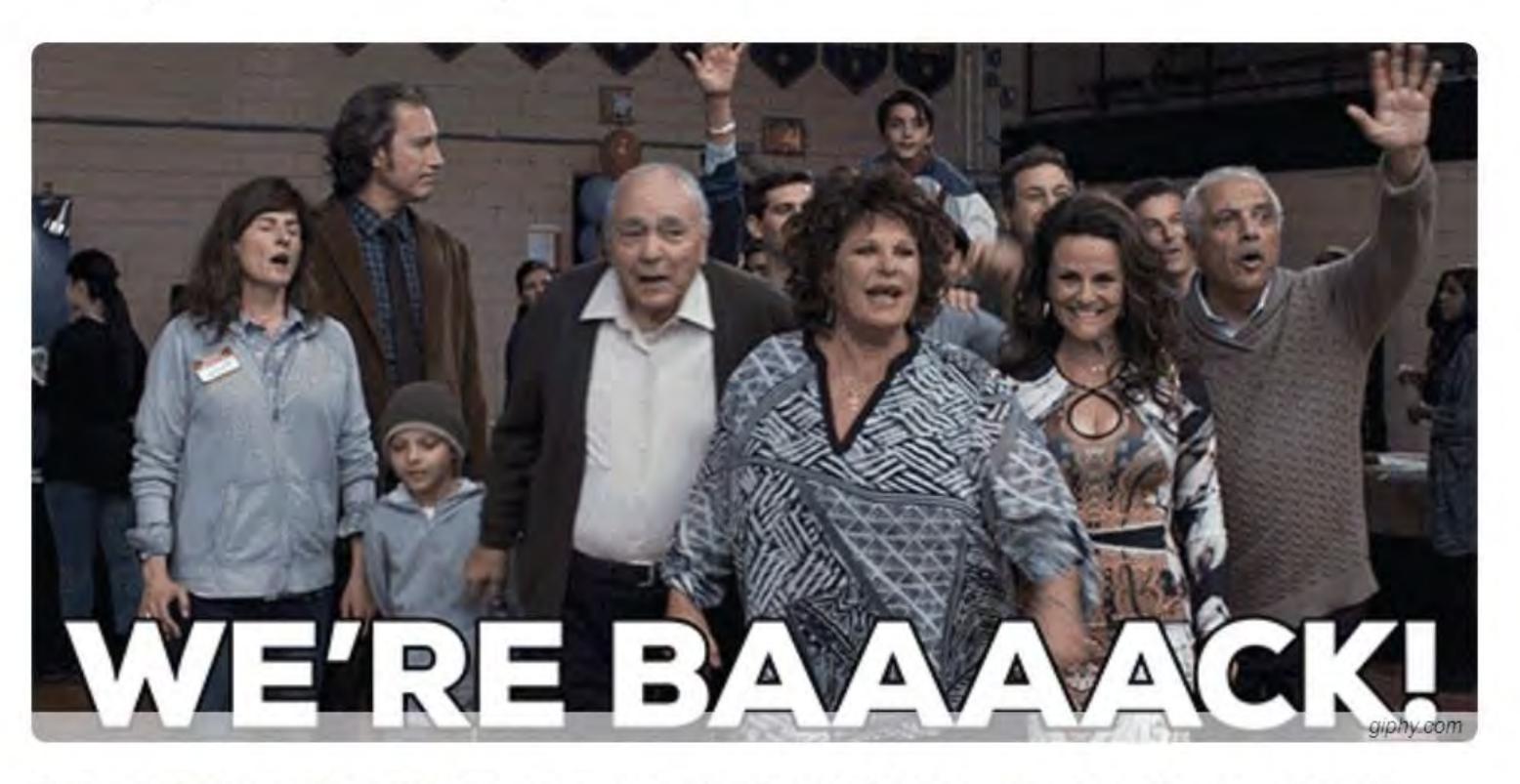


holidays and events?

It turns out that science has a word for it: hypercopresence.

WHAT IS HYPERCOPRESENCE?

Hypercopresence is a phenomenon that occurs when families who have spent all year apart are suddenly forced to live in close quarters.



During holidays and special occasions, many family members have to share the same house/ bedroom/ bathroom and deal with other abnormal stresses such as small children running around.

They are in each other's hair for an extended amount of time with barely any breathing room.

1

Sources of Conflict

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

TWISTED DESIRE



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10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

MARGINALIZED SPIRITUALITY



MARGINALIZED SPIRITUALITY

² You do not have because <u>you do not ask</u> <u>God</u>. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with <u>wrong motives</u>.

- James 4:2-3

#2

Solutions of Conflict

⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you - who are you to judge your neighbor?

CONFLICT WITH GOD:



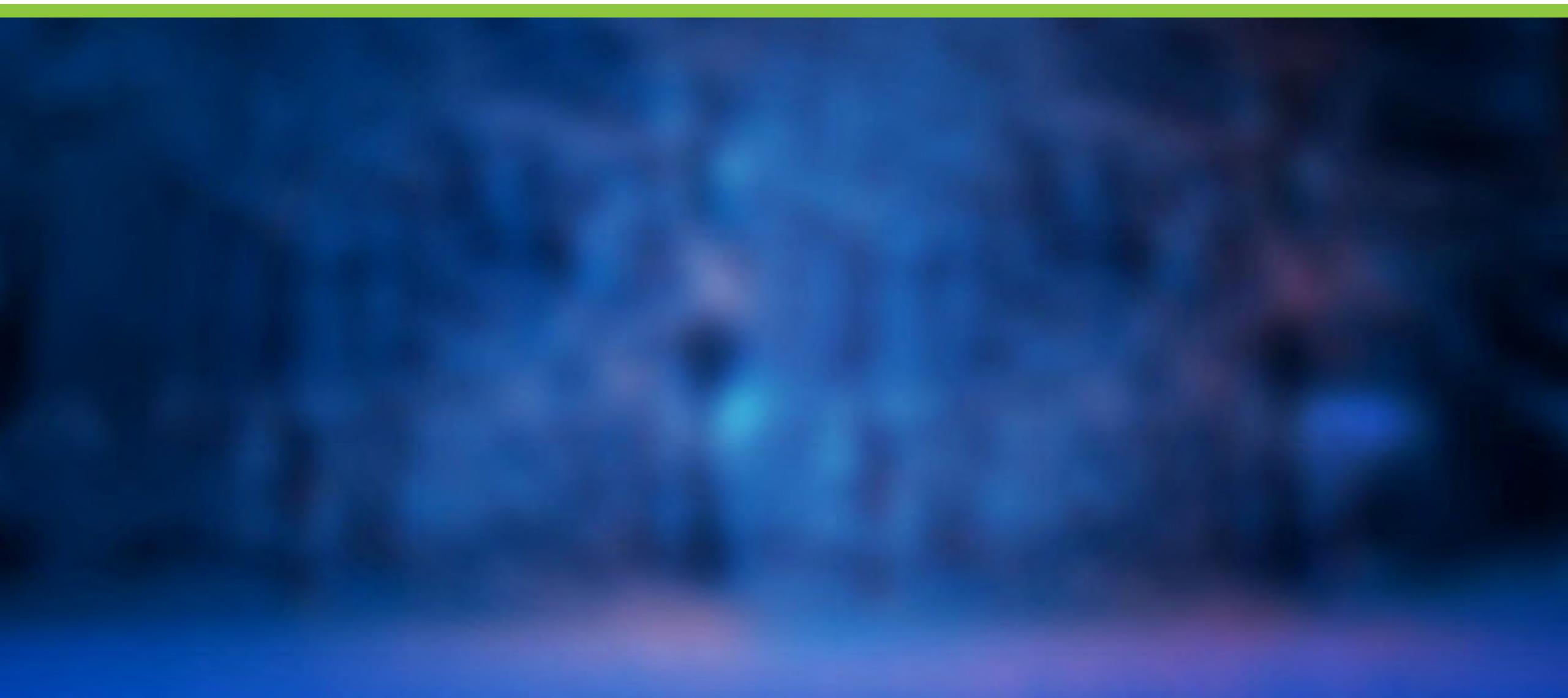
CONFLICT WITH GOD: HUMILITY

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- James 4:10

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

CONFLICT WITH OTHERS:



CONFLICT WITH OTHERS: CHARITY

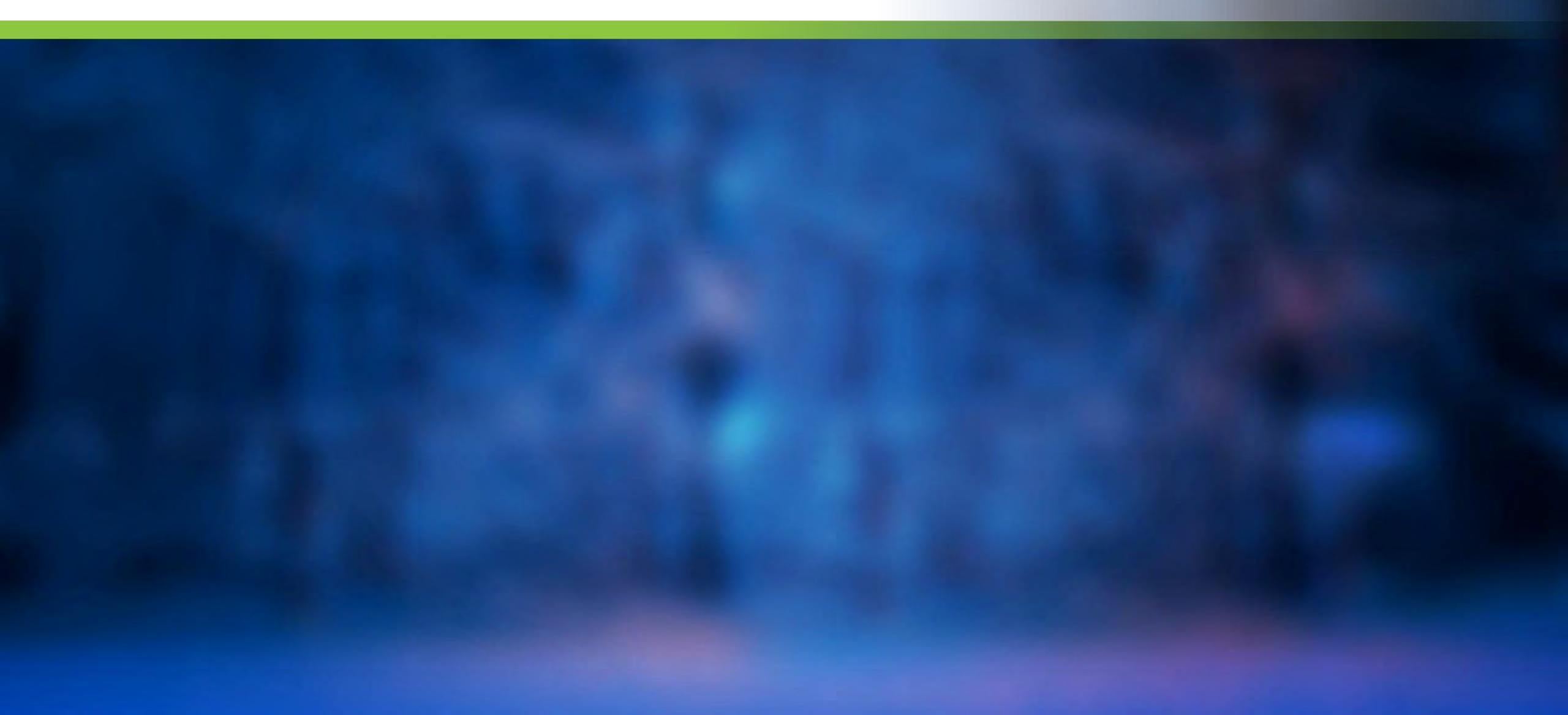
Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.

- James 4:11

CONFLICT WITH OTHERS: CHARITY

Brothers and sisters, do not <u>slander</u> one another.

- James 4:11



· Say what it could say

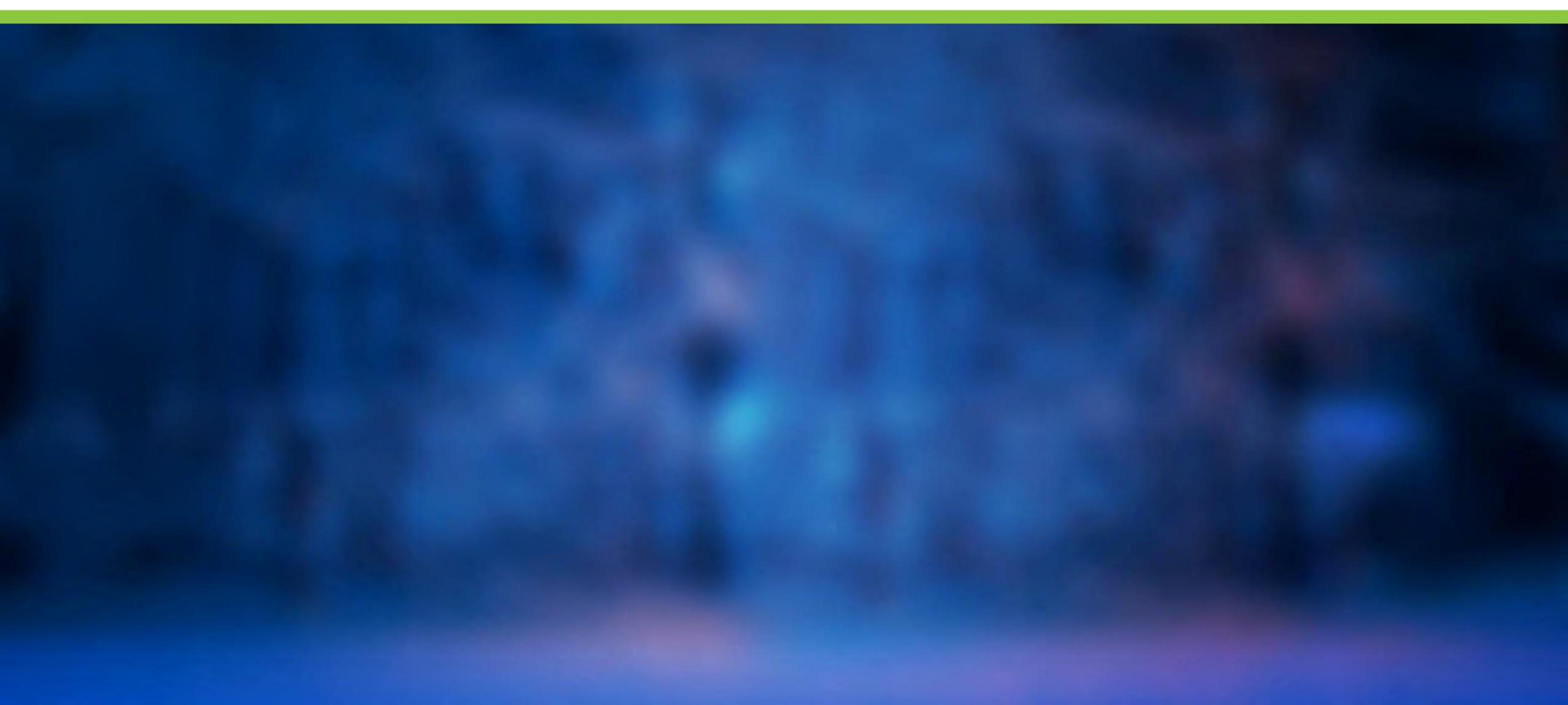
- · Say what it could say
- · Assume the worst about someone

- · Say what it could say
- Assume the worst about someone
- Hold a sin against someone who has caused offense

them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶¹ But Jesus <u>remained silent</u> and gave no answer.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."



Hold your tongue!

Hold your tongue!

Put the best construction on a situation.

Hold your tongue!

Put the best construction on a situation.

Show someone grace.

Hold your tongue!

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Show someone grace.

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Tark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled