

**Drawing Near to the God of Peace**  
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1. Introduction

- a. Conflict is everywhere
- b. The story of Evelyn and Susan
- c. Let us rejoice! God is near – Philippians 4:2-9

2. Overcoming conflict with love

- a. Relationships shatter
  - i. Let us rejoice! God protects and heals
  - ii. Agree in the Lord and help one another
  
- b. We are demanding and harsh
  - i. Let us rejoice! God is patient and kind
  - ii. Be reasonable and gentle
  
- c. We isolate ourselves
  - i. Let us rejoice! God is intimately near
  - ii. Pray without restriction, with thanksgiving
  
- d. Our minds darken
  - i. Let us rejoice! God reorients us
  - ii. Think good thoughts
  
- e. We swell with pride
  - i. Let us rejoice! God forgives
  - ii. Show humility: listen and learn

3. Practicing love by imitating Paul

4. Drawing near to the God of peace