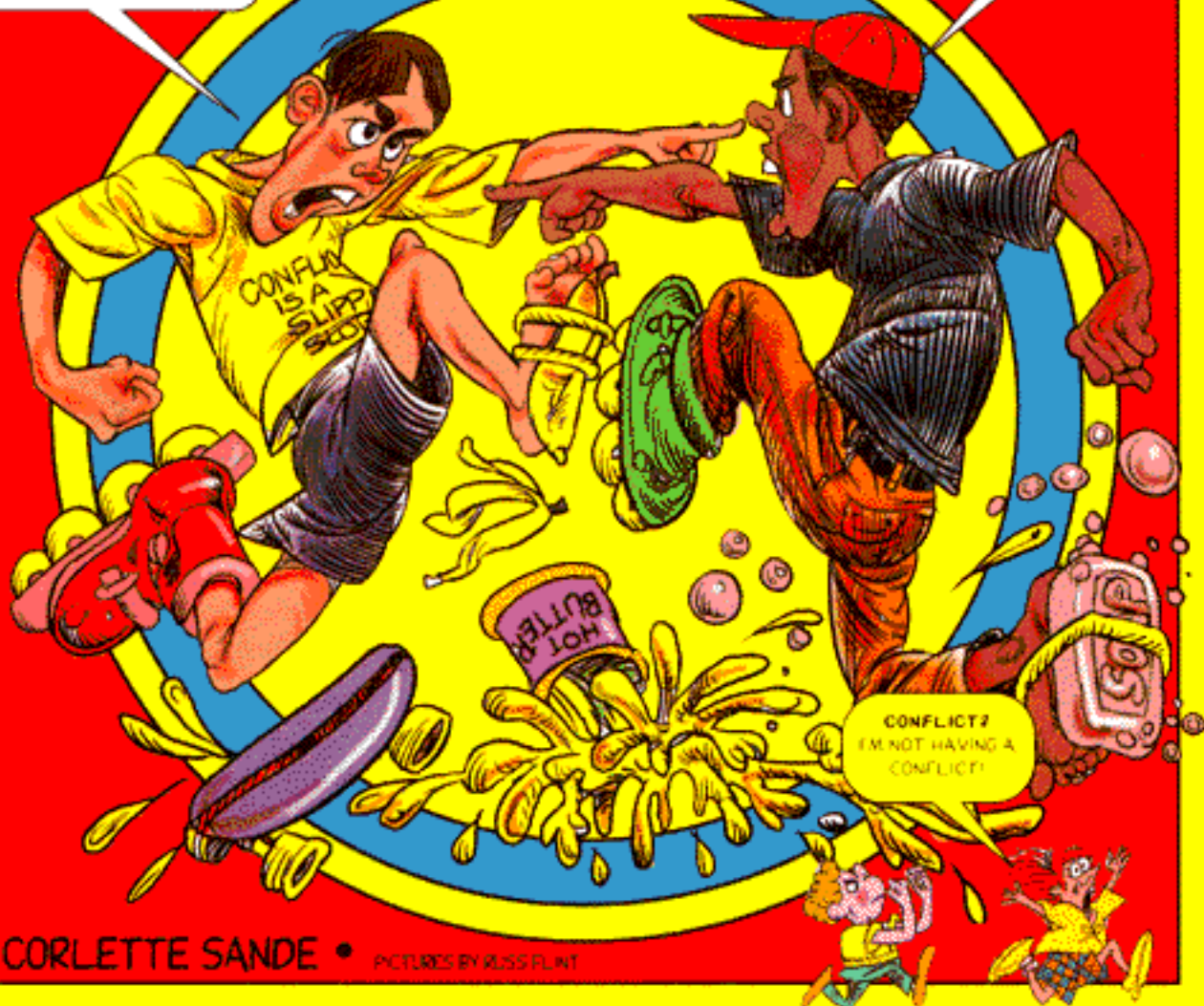


Twisted Ten Speed

Featuring Kent & James

SOME FRIEND
YOU ARE!

IT'S NOT MY
FAULT!



Lesson

1

THE
YOUNG
PEACE
MAKER

KEY THOUGHT
IN THIS CHAPTER IS:
CONFLICT
IS A
SLIPPERY SLOPE.



Conflict Is a

**SLIPPERY
SLOPE**

CONFLICT?
I NEVER HAVE
CONFLICTS!
WHAT IS A CONFLICT
ANYWAY?

A CONFLICT
IS
A FIGHT
BETWEEN PEOPLE
WHO
THINK OR ACT
DIFFERENTLY.

IT IS NOT!

IT IS TOO!

IS NOT!

IS TOO!

If
it is
possible,
as far as
it depends
on you,
live
at peace
with
everyone.

Romans 12:18



TWISTED TEN SPEED

FEATURING KENT & JAMES

WHAT HAPPENED TO
MY NEW BIKE?



LOOK!
IT'S ALL BENT
AND SCRATCHED!

MAN-O-MAN!
I ONLY LEFT IT FOR
A SECOND.



YOU SAID YOU'D WATCH
MY BIKE, BEETLE BRAIN.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

I DID NOT SAY I'D
WATCH YOUR BIKE!
BESIDES, IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR LEAVING IT
WHERE IT COULD GET
SMASHED!

LOOK! MY BIKE IS WRECKED!
YOU'D BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO COME UP
WITH THE MONEY TO GET ME A NEW ONE!



WHERE'S
THE SLIPPERY
SLOPE?
I DON'T SEE ANY
SLIPPERY
SLOPES!



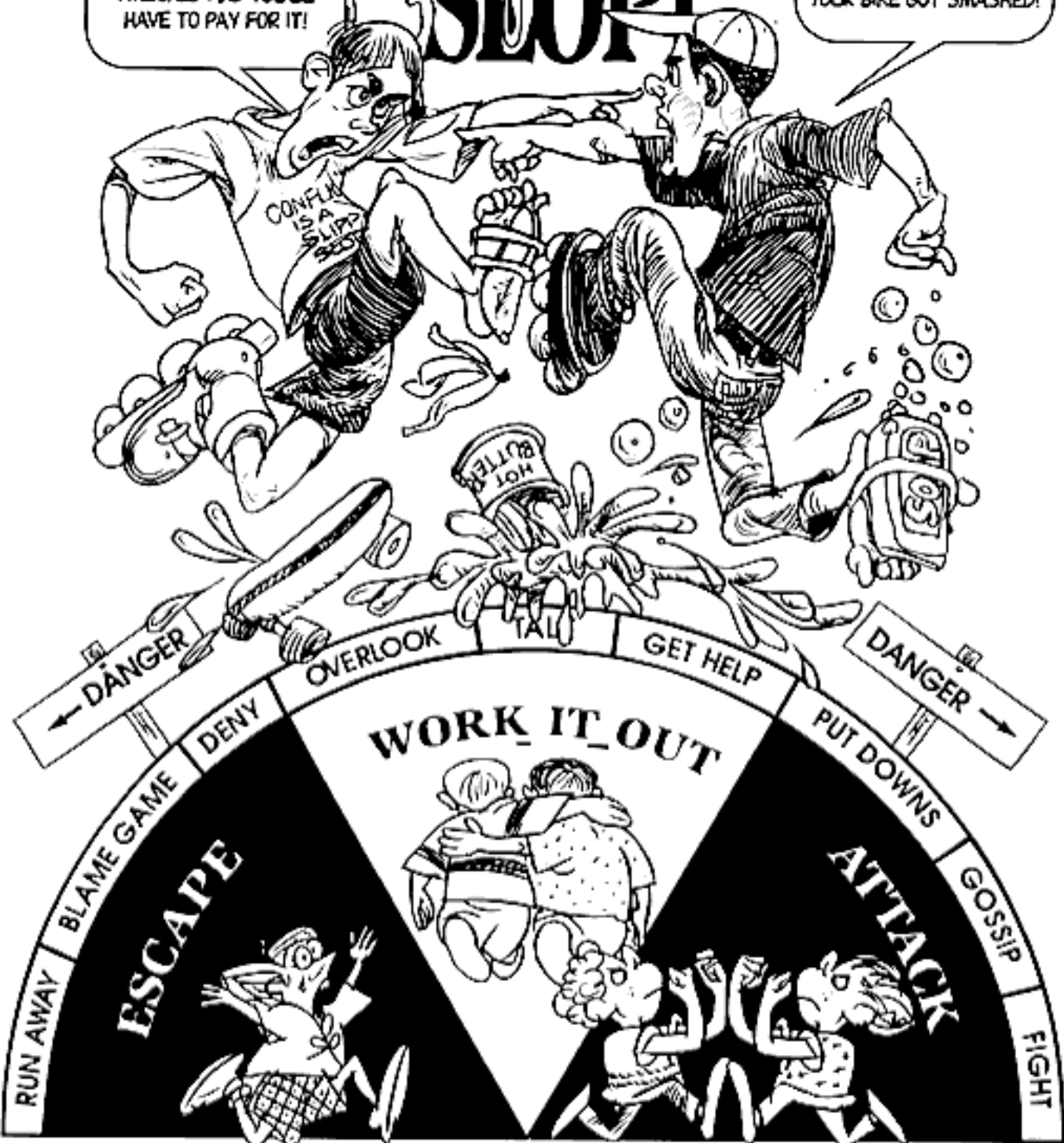
GRRRRRRR!

The

SLIPPERY SLOPE

MY BIKE IS WRECKED AND YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOUR BIKE GOT SMASHED!



CONFLICT IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE
There is danger ahead if you slip!

1. ESCAPE

CONFLICT? I'M NOT HAVING A CONFLICT.



The Escape Responses are used to get away from conflict instead of trying to resolve it. These responses usually prolong conflict.

HEY, JAMES, GREAT DAY FOR A BIKE RIDE, DONTCHA THINK? HAW HAW!

YEAH, SURE, GREAT.

I'LL NEVER TRUST HIM AGAIN!

HE STILL THINKS IT'S MY FAULT HIS BIKE GOT WRECKED.

Denial

Pretending that a conflict does not exist, or refusing to do what we can to work it out is always a wrong response to conflict.



YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL!

Blame Game

Instead of taking responsibility for our choices, we try to escape their consequences by blaming others for the problem, pretending we did nothing wrong, covering up what we did, or lying about our contribution to a conflict. This is never a responsible way to handle conflict, nor does it resolve problems.



Run Away

Running away from the person we are quarreling with is only acceptable if there is danger of harm. Otherwise this response just prolongs problems.





PEACE
BREAKING

2. ATTACK



YOU'RE A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING, YOU KNOW THAT?

OH YEAH! WHO'S DUMB ENOUGH TO GET HIS BIKE WRECKED THE DAY HE GOT IT?

The Attack Responses are used to put pressure on others to get our own way. These responses usually damage relationships.

Put Downs

We attack others with harsh and cruel words when conflict arises. This response usually stirs up anger in the other person, and is always a wrong response to conflict.



YOU KNOW JAMES?
YOU CAN NEVER TRUST HIM.

YOU KNOW KENT?
HE LIES ABOUT EVERYTHING!

Gossip

We talk about people behind their backs in order to damage their reputation or to get others on our side. Gossip is hurtful and is always a wrong response to a conflict.



MUMF OOOOF!

Fight

We use physical force to get our own way. This is almost always a wrong response to conflict. (This response is proper only if you have to protect yourself or another person from being injured by an attacker.)

AAAAARGH!

CONFLICT IS A
SHIPWRECK



3. WORK-IT-OUT



The Work-It-Out Responses are used to find constructive solutions to conflicts. These responses usually help to preserve relationships.

Overlook an Offense

You deal with the offense by yourself. You simply decide to forgive a wrong action against you and walk away from a conflict. Perhaps you think this is the same as denial, but forgiveness is the key here. The person who overlooks another's offenses will continue to have a growing, healthy relationship with him or her. "Don't sweat the small stuff!" If you cannot overlook a problem, you should use one of the other work-it-out responses (see Prov. 19:11; 12:16; 17:14; Col. 3:13; 1 Peter 4:8).

**Talk-It-Out**

A conflict is resolved by going directly to the other person to talk it out together. This can include confessing your own wrongs and confronting the other person's wrongs in a kind way. This response should be used if you cannot overlook what the other person did and the problem is hurting your relationship (see Matt. 18:15; 5:23-24; see also Prov. 28:13; Gal. 6:1-3).

LOOK, KENT, MARY LOU
AND JEFF'S BIKES WERE WRECKED, TOO.

SOMETHING
REALLY WEIRD
IS GOIN' ON
AROUND HERE!



CONFLICT
IS A
SLIPPERY
SLOPE

More Ways to:

WORK-IT-OUT



Get Help to Know What You Should Say

When you are in a difficult conflict, it is often wise to ask someone else (such as a parent, teacher, or friend) to help you decide how you can handle the conflict so it won't get worse—at least from your side. Ask the person to help you know what you should say and how you should say it. This is called **coaching** (see Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:29).

HEY DAD!



BOYS, LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

Get Help to Talk Together

If you go to the other person and you cannot resolve the conflict just between the two of you, then ask someone else to meet with both of you to help you talk together and find a solution to the problem. This is called **mediation**. Mediators can suggest solutions to you, but you still need to decide what to do (see Matt. 18:16).



WE THINK BOTH OF YOU NEED TO SHARE THE COST OF REPLACING THE BIKE.

Get Help to Decide

If you cannot solve a conflict by talking with each other or by mediation, then you can both tell your side of the story to a person in authority who will decide on a solution. This is called **arbitration**. The helping person (an "arbitrator") could be a parent, teacher, school administrator, or pastor. The arbitrator's decision is final (see 1 Cor. 6:1-8).



Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, I have a lot to learn about conflict and how to handle it better. Most of the time I respond by escaping or attacking. I can see now that those responses make my conflicts worse and even hurt my relationships with others. Teach me how to be a peacemaker, Lord. In Jesus' name,

Amen



HEY, YOUNG FELLA, PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I BACKED OVER YOUR BIKE WITH MY TRUCK. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

PROBLEM SOLVED!
THE MAINTENANCE GUY
RAN OVER MY BIKE

AND HE'S
BUYIN' ME
A NEW ONE!!

I WAS WRONG
TO BLAME YOU, JAMES.

HEY,
I FORGIVE YOU, KENT.
WE'RE FRIENDS
FOREVER!

"CONFLICT IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE" IS A KEY THOUGHT, AND IT APPEARS 10 TIMES IN THIS LESSON. CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

WHERE'S
THE
GOOP?



ACTIVITY



Can YOU Survive the... SLIPPERY SLOPE

Take This Simple Slippery Slope Test and See How You React to Conflict.

You may choose the same response-answer as many times as you need to. To see if you survived the slippery slope, check the answers at the bottom of the page.

This Is What Happened:

A Your best friend calls and asks your advice. While you are trying to listen and give your best advice, your sister keeps yelling at you

GET OFF THAT PHONE! I AM WAITING FOR AN IMPORTANT CALL!



How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

B Your grandmother's wedding rings are missing. The rings were found in the pocket of your jeans, but you did not take the rings. Your mother says:

HONEY, ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO YOU!



How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

C You saved up and bought an aquarium and some very expensive fish. Your three-year-old cousin who is visiting says:

YOUR FISHEEEES WERE HUNGWEE SO I FED THEM THE WHOLE BOX OF FOOD.



How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

D You go into your room and find that your desk and dresser drawers are all dumped over. Your brother says:

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER YOUR ROOM FOR THE CD'S YOU BORROWED. WHERE ARE THEY?



How would you respond? Enter your number choice here:

Choose Your Response to Situations A, B, C, D:

- 1 Be angry, but hide your feelings.
- 2 Stop talking to him or her.
- 3 Go with the person with whom you are in disagreement and find a parent, teacher or trusted friend to help you discuss and decide the matter.
- 4 Get angry, push, shove, attack, or yell back.
- 5 Go by yourself to a parent, teacher or trusted friend to get advice.
- 6 Put the other person down and make him or her feel inferior.
- 7 Forgive him or her completely of any wrongdoing.
- 8 Tell your friends or other family members about how you were treated and wronged.
- 9 Pretend nothing is wrong, but send unspoken messages about how angry you are.
- 10 Go to the person with whom you are in conflict. Try to talk out the problem without getting angry.

Answers: 1, 2, 9 are escape reactions. Answers 4, 6, 8 are attack reactions. If most of your answers are 3, 5, 7, 10, congratulations, you have survived the slippery slope.

Bible Heroes

on the Slippery Slope

Who Could Do It, Nothin' to It & Who Blew It?

Referring to the slippery slope diagram, indicate which response to conflict was used in each of the following situations (deny, blame game, run away, put downs, gossip, fight, overlook, talk, get help).

1. Adam and Eve are confronted with their sin (Gen. 3:8-13).

Blame Game

2. Cain murders Abel (Gen. 4:2b-8).

3. Eli denies the seriousness of his sons' sin (1 Sam 2:22-25).

4. David fights with Goliath (1 Sam. 17:1-51).

5. Nathan confronts David about his adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11:1 - 12:13).

6. Jonah runs away from God (Jonah 1:1-3:3).

Write your answer on the line inside each box.

8. Joseph flees with Mary and Jesus to Egypt (Matt. 2:13-15).

9. The Christians argue about how to distribute food (Acts 6:1-7).

10. People do not want to hear Stephen talk about Jesus (Acts 6:8 7:54-60).

12. The Christians have a doctrinal dispute (Acts 15:1-32).

11. People criticize Peter for preaching to Gentiles (Acts 11:1-18).

13. The Philippians oppose Paul's ministry (Acts 16:16-22).

14. The Ephesians oppose Paul's ministry (Acts 19:23-41).

BIG BONUS BRAIN TEASER

One of the answers is a **GOOD** use of **FIGHT**.

One of the answers is a **GOOD** use of **RUN AWAY**. Can you find both of them on this page?

