

This study is meant for use with Responding to Conflict Confessionally, a Peacemaker Bible Study for Lutherans. It appears that book is no longer available from Peacemaker Ministries, [www.peacemaker.net](http://www.peacemaker.net). This study for the deaf was done with permission from Peacemaker Ministries. If you want an answer key, please contact Rev. Tim Eckert at [deaflutheran@revealed.net](mailto:deaflutheran@revealed.net)

Potential memory verses:

Matthew 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Luke 11:4 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.' "

Luke 17: 3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

1 John 1: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Psalms 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.

2 Cor. 5: 18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

Luke 6: 27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:31 "And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way.

Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

1 Cor. 10: 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved.

James 1: 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

Colossians 3: 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1 Peter 2: 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Romans 12: 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Mark 11: 25 "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.

Proverbs 28: 13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

Colossians 3: 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Matthew 18: 15 "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Proverbs 19: 11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

Ephesians 4: 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4: 32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Matthew 7: 12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Philippians 2: 4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

John 13: 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 1, Introduction

**Theme:** Understanding Conflict and Our Responses to It

**Knowledge Goal:** To learn about the different responses we have to conflict.

**Action Goal:** With God's help in the future, to use right responses to conflict, and to recognize and confess when we use a wrong response.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called God's children." Matthew 5:9

"People make peace, God blesses them. They are named God's children."

### What Is Conflict?

What is conflict? Conflict is a \_\_\_\_\_ in opinion or goals. When my opinion or goals don't \_\_\_\_\_ with another person's opinion or goals.

When conflict happens, should we be surprised?

### Conflict Happens, Why?

Genesis 11:1-9 (11) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (1440) \_\_\_\_\_ values, goals, gifts, interests, opinions, etc.

Genesis 13:1-12 (14) \_\_\_\_\_ over limited resources.

James 4:1-3 (1522) \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes that lead to sinful words and actions.

Does sin cause every conflict? Or do some conflicts happen without sin? Can you think of an example?

## **How Do We Respond to Conflict?**

When conflict happens, what do we do? Look at the diagram on page 6 in the book. Notice there are many different things we do when conflict happens. But in general, there are three ways we can respond: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ (means to make peace).

Look at the diagram and explanations. Can you share an example of when you used an “escape” response? Did it make the conflict better or worse? What about an attack response? What about a conciliation (make peace) response?

We want to avoid bad responses (escape or attack). What can we do to stop ourselves before we do the wrong thing?

Here is a word of wisdom from the Bible. Read Philippians 4:6-9 (1476) to see how to avoid bad responses. What does it say?

Finally, our sin separates us from God. How did God respond to our conflict? Read Romans 5:6-8 (1415). How does that help us do the right thing in our conflicts?

### **Discussion**

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: page 4, B, C; page 5, “4 G’s”; pp. 6-7, slippery slope, discussion questions.

To prepare for next time, do this:

Fill out the chart on page 8 in the book. Read each Bible story and write “+” if they did a wise and right thing. Write “-” if they had a foolish or sinful response.

Read section “F” on page 10.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 2, Remember You Are a Child of God

**Theme:** God makes us ready and able to make peace.

**Knowledge Goal:** To remember who we are as God's children and understand how God makes us new people.

**Action Goal:** To grow in God's gifts and become more like Jesus!

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 – If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Cor. 5:17 – Person connected to Christ, Christ makes new. Old life gone, new life here!

### Responses to Conflict

Go to page 8 in your workbook. Look at #1,2,3,4,6,7,8. Their responses wise or foolish?

Watch the story from 1 Samuel 25 about David, a man named Nabal and his wife Abigail. Who was wise? Who was foolish? How could they do better?

### Are We Wise or Foolish?

Read Romans 7:14-25 (1417). This can be a very confusing. But there is one simple and clear way to explain: Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time.

Here is an example. Suppose you are planning a surprise birthday party for a good friend. Another person, someone you don't get along with, tells your friend about the surprise party.

What do you feel like doing? (Christians are sinners.)

What do you want to do to please God? (Christians are saints.)

Think about how we are "saint" and "sinner" at the same time. Does that help explain why it is hard to always do the right thing when conflict happens?

### How God Makes the "Saint" in Us

On our own, we are only sinners, no saint. When conflict happens, we will choose foolish and wrong answers. God must make us able to choose the right answers.

How? Read Romans 6:1-4 (1416). God says...

We died to sin. That means we don't live under sin's \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.2).

We were baptized into Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 3,4).

The same as Jesus rose alive again, we can live a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of life (vs. 4)

In baptism, we see that God drowns our old sinful person. He gives us a new spiritual life, because Jesus is alive! The old sin wanted to do more sin. But the new life wants to do what God wants. Every day, we can remember that we are joined to Jesus. God defeated and forgives our old sin. God gave us new life so we can live holy and wise.

Colossians 3:5-10 (1480). You've gotten rid of the person you \_\_\_\_\_ to be and the \_\_\_\_\_ you used to live (vs. 9). You've become a \_\_\_\_\_ person (vs. 10).

Ephesians 4:24 (1469). You were also taught to become a \_\_\_\_\_ person created to be like God, truly \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Peter 1:5-7 (1530). What things should we add to our Christian faith and life?

**Having these things will help make us ready to be Peacemakers!**

I \_\_\_\_\_

If you have these things, it means...(vs. 8)

K \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't have these things, it means...

G \_\_\_\_\_

(vs. 9)

Christian A \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

## Discussion

## Closing prayer

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: page 11, discussion questions.

To prepare for next time, read pages 12-13. When conflict happens, what are the three opportunities we have?

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 3, Conflict Gives You Opportunities

**Theme:** Conflict gives us opportunities to love, forgive, and build stronger relationships.

**Knowledge Goal:** To know what opportunities we have when conflict happens.

**Action Goal:** To practice ways of doing good in the middle of conflict. How can we change conflict from bad to good?

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32 Because of Christ, God finished forgive you. Same, you kind to everyone, soft-heart, forgive everyone.

### ***Conflict Gives You 3 Opportunities:***

#### **Opportunity #1: \_\_\_\_\_ God**

1 Corinthians 10:31 (1438). Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of \_\_\_\_\_.

What does *glory* mean? What does it mean to glorify God?

When conflict happens, we choose who to glorify.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God, or trust myself.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ God, or do my sinful wants. (Story of pastor on bus.)
3. Do the \_\_\_\_\_ as God, or do the same as my enemy's actions.

John 14:15 (1355). Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will \_\_\_\_\_ My commandments."

#### **Opportunity #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Other People**

1 Corinthians 10:33 (1438). I try to please everyone in every way. I don't think about what would be good for \_\_\_\_\_ but about what would be good for \_\_\_\_\_ so that they might be saved.

We usually want to help our friends. We want to help our enemies? No! But the Bible says different. Romans 12:20-21 (1424) says, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. If you do this, you will make him feel guilty and ashamed. Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ conquer (defeat) you, but conquer (defeat) \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_."

Conflict gives us an opportunity to help our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ the same.

Three ways we can help:

1. Carry their burdens. Galatians 6:2,10 (1464).
2. Help them follow God more. Galatians 6:1 (1464)
3. Live like a Christian example for them. 1 Timothy 4:12 (1493)

**Opportunity #3: \_\_\_\_\_ To Become More Like Christ**

1 Corinthians 11:1 (1438). \_\_\_\_\_ me as I imitate \_\_\_\_\_.

James 1:2-4 (1519). Conflict is like a \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith. When we pass the test, our faith will be more mature.

Psalms 119:71 (758). It was good that I had to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to learn Your \_\_\_\_\_. When we suffer, we can learn God's way better.

Romans 5:3-5 (1415). We know that \_\_\_\_\_ creates \_\_\_\_\_, endurance creates \_\_\_\_\_, and character creates \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion**

**Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: pages 15-16, *Peacemaking Is Not Optional*.

To prepare for next time, read pages 19-21. Why is it important to examine myself and my sins?

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 4, Examine Yourself

**Theme:** To start solving problems, examine yourself and confess your sins first.

**Knowledge Goal:** Know we should examine our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

**Action Goal:** To get an attitude of repentance. Be willing and ready to admit we are wrong and change our ways.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 7:5 First take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:5 First, my own big sin fix, finish. Next I help my friend's little sin fix.

### **Be Honest!**

You and a friend are at a picnic. You both go up to get an ice cream cone. Only one is left. Who gets it? What do you do?

You and a friend hurt each other. Both of you did wrong. Both should confess sin. Who goes first?

We must take the first step. We must confess our sins first. 1 John 1:8 (1534) says, "If we say, "We aren't sinful," we are \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us.

Why do we try to hide our sins? Who do we think we are fooling?

### **Repent!**

What does repent mean?

Repent means...

- Feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

- We understand we sin against a \_\_\_\_\_ and against \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 15:18 (1314), Psalm 51:3-4 (688).
- We have a new heart and new desires. Psalm 51:10 (688)

“I know. Gossiping about him was wrong. I’m sorry I did wrong. But he hurt me! He deserved it!” Is that true repentance? What is missing?

How do we know if we are truly repenting? Three signs:

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ our sins and ask \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We do all we can to fix the wrong we did.
3. We change our attitude and actions, so we don’t do the same sin twice.

### **Change what is important to you!**

Why hide your sin? Why refuse to confess? We are protecting or hiding something. We think something else is more important than confessing our sin.

What things we think are more important?

1. Wrong desire for physical \_\_\_\_\_. Galatians 5:16-21 (1464)
2. \_\_\_\_\_. Proverbs 29:23 (822)
3. Love of \_\_\_\_\_ and things. 1 Timothy 6:10 (1494)
4. Fear of \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 12:4-5 (1309)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ things that we want too much. James 4:1-3 (1522)

### **Discussion**

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: page 20 about idols, discussion questions on page 21.

To prepare for next time, read pages 22-24. Does confession only mean, “I’m sorry?” What more is involved?

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 5, Confess Your Sins

**Theme:** Do what we believe – confess our sins so we have forgiveness.

**Knowledge Goal:** Know the seven parts of confession.

**Action Goal:** To ask God to give us hearts to confess our sins. Throw-out our pride and help us admit when we are wrong.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, God is faithful and right. He will forgive our sins and make us pure.

### Confess: Opportunity to Show Your Faith

Is there any person who is perfect? Any person who doesn't need forgiveness?

Why do we need Jesus? What does Jesus do for us?

This is a true statement: When we \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_, we show that we believe in \_\_\_\_\_ and need Him to forgive our \_\_\_\_\_.

So if we have a conflict, we have a choice.

1. C \_\_\_\_\_ our sins and show that we trust in Jesus.
2. D \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, and also deny our faith in Jesus.

### Confess: Seven Parts

1. Confess to everyone involved. We should always confess to two, because every sin is against \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ we hurt.
  - Read Luke 19:1-10 (1319). What was Zacchaeus' job?
  - What was Zacchaeus' sin?
  - How did he confess to everyone involved?
2. Don't use words like if, but, and maybe. Read these confessions. Which is a true confession? If it is not a good confession, how would you say it better?

- If I hurt you when I said your dog looks like a rat, I am sorry.
  - I don't think I said any wrong. You took it the wrong way. I'm sorry.
  - I don't know how your money got in my wallet. But if you think I took it, then I'm sorry.
  - I didn't think before I spoke, and I did hurt you. I'm sorry.
  - I'm sorry I said bad things about you. But you were so stubborn, you made me do it.
3. Admit exactly what you did.
- a. Attitudes. Matthew 15:19 (1231)
  - b. Words. Philippians 2:14 (1475), Proverbs 11:13 (797), Ephesians 4:29 (1469)
  - c. Actions. Matthew 7:12 (1217)
4. Apologize. Show true sorrow.
5. Accept the punishment or other consequences.
- Read Luke 15:11-21 (1314). Was the younger son ready to accept the consequences? How do you know?
  - Read Exodus 22:7-9 (92). Then read Luke 19:8 (1319). If someone stole something, how much must they pay back? How did Zacchaeus show he was truly sorry?
6. Change your behavior for the future.
7. Ask for forgiveness.

### **Discussion**

Can you skip any one part? Is it true confession if you don't do one part?

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: discussion questions on page 24.  
To prepare for next time, read pages 25-27.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 6, Go and Show Your Brother His Fault: When and How Do You Confront Someone?

**Theme:** Confront to heal and forgive the other person.

**Knowledge Goal:** Know why and how to confront a person about their sin against you.

**Action Goal:** With God's help, have a heart of love for people who hurt us. Then when we confront them, we want the best for them.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault. Matt. 18:15 Your brother sins against you, go show him wrong. Matthew 18:15

What does "Confront" mean? Confront means to carefully show someone their \_\_\_\_\_. Your goal is for them to \_\_\_\_\_ their sin so you can \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### Confront When Someone Has Something Against You

Matthew 5:23-24 (1214). What might a person have against you?

- Misunderstanding.
- Maybe you were \_\_\_\_\_. Then you have the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.
- You can help the other person learn to \_\_\_\_\_ you.

### Confront When Someone's Sins Are Too Serious to Overlook

Do his sins offend God and give a bad \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers? Romans 2:21-24 (1412).

Did his sin hurt your \_\_\_\_\_?

Does his sin hurt other people in their faith? Luke 17:1-3 (1316).

Does his sin hurt the person himself? James 5:19-20 (1523).

### **How to Confront?**

Make sure you are not poking your nose into other people's business. 1 Timothy 5:13 (1493).

Confront if a person is stuck in a sin. Galatians 6:1 (1464).

Why confront? NOT because I want to get mad and make them suffer because of their sin. The goal is always to restore the person. That means help them come back to strong faith. Galatians 6:1-2 (1464).

Make sure you do these things:

- Speak to build up the other person. Ephesians 4:29 (1469).
- Pay attention to what they say. Ask questions to make sure you understand.
- Look for ways you agree.
- Pray.
- Find the right time and place to meet.
- Believe the best until facts prove otherwise.
- Talk about facts, not rumors.
- Show their sin against you. Don't nose into their relationship with other people.
- Be ready to forgive their sin against you.

### **Discussion**

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: discussion questions on page 27. Review the communication points on pages 26-27.

To prepare for next time, read pages 28-29.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

Session 7, Go and Show Your Brother His Fault:  
When and How Do You Involve Other People?

**Theme:** Confront to heal and forgive the other person.

**Knowledge Goal:** Know why and how to ask another person to help you make peace.

**Action Goal:** With God's help, have a heart of love for people who hurt us. Then when we confront them, we want the best for them.

## Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation may be verified by two or three witnesses. Matthew 18:16  
Suppose believer not listen. One or two people take-with you. Every accusation (blame), they witness everything. Matthew 18:16

## Before Taking Other People With You...

Don't bring other people into the conflict too soon! First, make sure you did this:  
\_\_\_\_\_ small sins. Proverbs 19:11 (807).

Second, make sure you tried talking with the other person in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 18:15 (1235).

If both of those things fail, then bring \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ people with you to discuss again. Matthew 18:16.

## How to Bring In Other People

Two ways to bring in a person.

1. Agree on a person to bring in. Don't bring in your best friend and his worst enemy. Bring a person that both of you trust and respect.
2. You bring in a person, without the other person agreeing. Do this only if the two of you can't agree on who to bring in as a witness. You should still bring in a person that both of you can trust and respect.

Read each situation. Who would you bring in to help you?

1. You have a problem at work with a co-worker. You always have trouble working together, and you can't solve the problems yourselves.
2. You are camping with some friends. You and a friend fight serious about something. Who should help? A person camping with you, or do you wait until camping is finished and get another person?
3. You are a church member and have problems with another member.
4. You are a church member and have problems with the pastor.
5. There is a person you don't know very well or see very often. But every time you meet, you can't get along.

### **What Does That Witness Do?**

- Encourage honesty, confess, forgiveness, love.
- Ask questions, make sure everyone understands.
- Give advice and wisdom from God's word.
- Help think of more solutions.
- Watch behavior of both people and report to the church, if necessary.

### **Discussion**

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: discussion questions on page 29.

To prepare for next time, read pages 30-32.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 8, Forgive as God Forgives You

**Theme:** Forgive!

**Knowledge Goal:** Know how greatly and freely God forgives you. Know that God wants us to forgive others the same.

**Action Goal:** With God's help, we will have a heart to forgive all who hurt us. We will also go to people and tell them we want to forgive and heal.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** Forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Matthew 6:12

Our sins You forgive, same-as people sin against us, we forgive-them.

### What is Forgiveness?

True or False. Forgiveness is a feeling.

Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_.

We sin against God. What should happen to us? What is our punishment?  
Romans 6:23 (1416).

What did God do with our sin? God did two things for us.

1. Took away our \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 103:12 (738)
2. Took away our \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 8:1-2 (1418)

For God, was forgiveness only a feeling in His heart? Or did God do something?  
We want to forgive other people the same way God forgives us!

### The Four Promises of Forgiveness

When we truly forgive someone, we make four promises.

1. I promise I will not \_\_\_\_\_ on what happened. Isaiah 43:25 (912)

2. I promise I will not \_\_\_\_\_ what happened and use it against you.
3. I promise I will not \_\_\_\_\_ to other people about this. Matthew 18:15 (1235)
4. I promise I will not let this stay between us or \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship.

### **What if it is Hard to Forgive?**

- Remember what happens if you don't forgive. Matthew 6:14-15 (1216)
- Make sure we are not trying to make them pay for their forgiveness. God forgives us free! We should do the same.
- We should not hold back forgiveness to punish them. 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 (1448)
- Forgive them, the same as we would want them to forgive us. Luke 6:31
- Remember how much God forgives us! We want to share that forgiveness. Compare the different attitudes in Matthew 18:23-35 (1235) and Luke 7:36-50 (1298). Which person showed the right attitude, the servant or the woman?

### **Discussion**

### **Closing prayer**

Parts of the book you can fill out on your own: discussion questions on page 32.

To prepare for next time, read pages 33-35.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 9, A Biblical Approach to Negotiating

**Theme:** How to peacefully solve issues.

**Knowledge Goal:** Know the PAUSE steps, how to best discuss and solve issues with someone.

**Action Goal:** With God's help, we will have an attitude of love and cooperation to work with the other person.

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. Philippians 2:4  
Don't concern your-own interests only. Other people's interest also think-about.

### Discuss These Statements

1. What I want is more important than what you want.
2. If I hate your guts, we can still discuss and solve our problems.
3. Fixing the relationship is more important than solving the issue. (Also discuss what happens if you think the issue is more important than the relationship.)

**Remember...**Before you can solve issues, you must confess and forgive each other! If your relationship is broken, you will not permanently solve any problems.

### PAUSE to Solve Issues

After you have forgiven and you are healing your relationship, then you are ready to discuss issues. You will want to be careful how you discuss! You don't want to make more trouble again. PAUSE means Prepare, Affirm, Understand, Search, Evaluate. You will see these steps can help you know how to discuss and solve issues.

## **Prepare**

Read Proverbs 14:8,22 (800). How does planning and preparing help us?

Do these things to help prepare before you discuss solving the issue.

- Pray
- Get the facts
- Clearly identify issues
- Study the Bible
- Get wise advice (not gossip)
- Think about what you will say
- Think about how the other person will react
- Pick a good time and place

## **Affirm (encourage) relationships.**

- Communicate politely
- Talk about personal issues
- Try not to order people to do things
- Obey authority like God wants you to do
- Try to understand their concerns and their perspective
- Be gracious
- Don't try to shame them
- Give honest praise/encouragement

## **Understand the other person's interests in the issue.**

Know these three things.

1. Issues – a clear and specific problem or question.
2. Positions – a person's goal or perspective on an issue.
3. Interests – why a person cares about an issue, why it is important to them or why they think the way they do.

## **Search for creative solutions.**

When you brainstorm, just think of ideas. Don't make decisions yet. Only be creative and try to think of every possible solution, even if you think the idea is a little strange.

## **Evaluate (judge) choices fairly.**

- Look at God's truth. Psalm 19:7 (657).
- Get facts and work from them.
- Get opinions from people you trust. Proverbs 12:15 (798).
- Understand other people's perspectives. Listen and think wisely about their objections and criticism.

# Becoming A Peacemaker

## Session 10, Conclusion

### Opening Prayer

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be named sons of God.”

### Case Study

A deaf church is planning to make a banner for ILDA. They are discussing different designs. One person (the “colorful” person) wants a simple design but a lot of color. The other person (the “fancy” person) wants a lot of lace, beads, etc. The “colorful” person said she will buy the material to make the banner. So she feels people should listen to her idea for a design. The “fancy” person has made many beautiful banners. She thinks she should design the banner because she has much experience. The “colorful” person already made a design and bought the fabric. Now the “fancy” person is upset. She accused “colorful” of not working together. “Fancy” refuses to work with “colorful,” and “Fancy” is telling everyone in church that the banner will be ugly, because “colorful” has no experience. “Colorful” and “Fancy” are both not talking to each other now.

1. Remember the Slippery Slope – attack, escape, peacemaking. What responses are “Colorful” and “Fancy” using?

You are a church member and a friend of both women. What response will you use?

2. How is conflict an opportunity for these people?

Colorful

Fancy

You

3. How can those people glorify God in this situation?

4. Suppose you could meet with someone? Who do you talk to? What do you say?

5. How do you encourage them to confess their sins?

6. How do you encourage them to forgive each other?