

***Handling Conflict in Life and on Mission***  
***Date: 4/24/16***

**Read Together**

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Acts 15

Conflict is an inevitable and unavoidable part of life. We have all had times when we disagreed over preferences, personalities, or principles. Yet learning to handle conflict in a biblical way is essential to believers. Thankfully, we have examples in the Scriptures that give us direction in resolving disagreements in a godly way. Acts 15 provides us with a helpful illustration when conflicts arise. Looking to godly and credible council and seeking the Scriptures are both necessary responses to positive conflict resolution. When handled well, our conflicts can turn to positives that result in necessary changes that are ultimately for the good and growth of all who are involved. For positive results, however, we must remember to banish pride and look to God. His Word, prayer, and a heart yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit will provide us the much needed guidance for positive resolution.

**Pray Together**

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the Living Word, our Mediator, and Righteous Savior.
- **Repent** from any arrogance, pride, or bitterness you may be harboring.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you surrender your will for His.
- **Yield** to the Spirit and trust God to guide and help you when conflicts arise.

**Discuss Together**

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Describe a time when you had to deal with a conflict. How did you handle this conflict? Did you feel like the conflict was dealt with in a godly way? Explain.

**Read Acts 14:27-15:3.**

- What was the cause of the conflict that arose in these verses?
- What first step took place in resolving this disagreement?
- Talk about some reasons for conflict in life and within the Church. (Examples: Preferences, personalities, pride, past or traditions, principles) Discuss Scriptures that speak to each of these areas of potential conflict.

**Read Acts 15:4-12**

- After the debate over the issue of circumcision for non-Jewish believers, what happened?



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- In what tone or demeanor did Peter make his case when addressing the assembly? What lessons can we learn from his example on how to respond in such instances?
- Above all, what was Peter making clear about salvation? (See Acts 15:10-11)
- Read Matthew 18:15-20. What does this passage tell us about handling disputes?
- When resolving conflict, where should we look for guidance? Search the Scriptures and share verses that support your response.

#### **Read Acts 15:23-29**

- After coming to a resolution, how did the council clearly shape and share their response?

#### **Read Acts 15:30-41.**

- Describe the conflict between Paul and Barnabas.
- How did they resolve their disagreement?
- What lessons can be learned from this dispute?
- What positives came about as a result of the split between Paul and Barnabas?
- In his message Pastor McKinley said, “God uses men to resolve conflict, and God uses conflict to work in the lives of men.” Are you currently dealing with a conflict? How might God be stretching, growing, and refining you in the process? Are you blaming others or taking personal responsibility? Could God be asking you to be an instrument of reconciliation and peace in the midst of your situation?
- Our Mediator, Jesus, reconciled us to God. He solved the greatest conflict in all of the world. What does this mean to you? How might you take Jesus’ examples of selfless love and apply it to your situation?

### **Do Life Together**

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.**

How can you use this lesson on conflict to “Go There” this week with a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who may need to see what godly reconciliation looks like? Will you apply these truths and allow others to see God at work in your life in a difficult situation?



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