

# #Struggles

## Relationships - Conflict Resolution (Wk.5)

### LifeNotes

## TALK IT OVER

#### Main Idea

Healthy conflict resolution begins with humility and always ends with grace.

#### Key Scriptures

*Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 18:4

*Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! Matthew 18:7*

*What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? Matthew 18:12*

*If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they refuse to listen to them, tell it to the church...*

Matthew 18:15-17

**Conflict resolution in the Kingdom of Heaven is about forming rescue parties, not brute squads.**

**Your approach to conflict, will determine you result.**

Steps to a healthy approach:

- Begin with humility.
  - Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
- Stop looking for offenses & stop looking for ways to offend others.
- Stop beating others up.
  - You will never shame someone into a restored relationship.

#### Additional Scripture:

*Make every effort to keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3*

*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. John 17:22*

#### Start talking.

- Joel made the comment, “Our culture embraces conflict, yet runs from resolution.” Agree or disagree? Explain.
- Think through the superheroes you know. Whose character would you like to emulate? Whose character to most people emulate?
- How has social media reduced the “cost of communication”?

#### Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 18:1-17. What is new or unusual to you about that passage?
- If true “listening” (vs. 15) is the goal, how does that change your approach?
- Why is humility so important as we seek to resolve conflict?
- What are the big ideas that link the ideas of the “little children, stumbling blocks, and the lost sheep”?
- What approach does Jesus take to the one sheep that wandered away?
- How have you observed followers of Jesus responding to those that have wandered away?

#### Start sharing.

- Read Matthew 18:15. What practical elements of this verse do you need to better apply as it relates to confronting and resolving conflict?
- Read Matthew 18:16. When potentially bringing others into an issue of conflict, what character qualities should you consider? Why is that important?
- Read John 17:22. How does that verse inform your approach to conflict?

#### Start doing.

- How can you better embrace a posture of humility with the person(s) you most often experience conflict with?
- Read Matthew 18:21-22. How can you offer greater grace in the midst of conflict?

#### Close in prayer.

Healthy conflict resolution begins with humility and ends with grace. Spend time specifically inviting Jesus to reveal areas of pride and judgment in you. Then ask for his direction and leading as you lean in face to face to those relationships that are experiencing conflict. Remember oneness and unity are always the goal along the way.