

Book 11

Conflict: Making Peace

Read the following section
and answer the questions below.

Conflict. Not a very big word, is it? But it makes for some very big problems. Conflict comes when there has been a disagreement or difference with someone else. How we respond in those situations is very important.

God's Word teaches us about the kind of behavior or speech that often causes conflicts, and it teaches us how to respond so we can avoid unnecessary conflict. God can teach us how to respond with right attitudes, actions, and words with the right motives in mind.

1. What can teach us to avoid conflict most of the time?
2. Instead of fighting, arguing, or pouting about our disagreements and differences, what would be some better ways to handle them?

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Recite the following passages
from memory.

James 4:1-2

- ¹*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?
Is not the source your pleasures
that wage war in your members?*
- ²*You lust and do not have; so you commit murder.
You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.
You do not have because you do not ask.*

Luke 6:43-45

- ⁴³*For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit,
nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit.*
- ⁴⁴*For each tree is known by its own fruit.
For men do not gather figs from thorns,
nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.*
- ⁴⁵*The good man out of the good treasure of his heart
brings forth what is good;
and the evil man out of the evil treasure
brings forth what is evil;
for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

Section 11:1 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Proverbs 10:12 _____

*¹²Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all transgressions.*

Proverbs 13:10 _____

*¹⁰Through insolence comes nothing but strife
but wisdom is with those who receive counsel.*

Proverbs 28:25a _____

*²⁵An arrogant man stirs up strife,
but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.*

Proverbs 29:22 _____

*²²An angry man stirs up strife,
and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.*

1. Conflict begins inside of us before it shows up with others. What kinds of attitudes help stir up conflict?
2. Beside each verse above, write the attitudes that help conflict start and grow.

Section 11:2 _____ **Date** _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

When we choose responses that create or inflame conflict, we are making choices that carry consequences. Our responses are like seeds that we plant in the ground, and they will grow. The Bible assures us that evil seeds will grow into evil things, and good seeds will grow into good things.

Galatians 6:9

⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Proverbs 16:7

*¹⁷The highway of the upright is to depart from evil;
he who watches his way preserves his life.*

1. How are our responses like seeds?
2. What kind of response creates or inflames conflict?

Section 11:3 _____ **Date** _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Proverbs 16:28 _____

*²⁸A perverse man spreads strife,
and a slanderer separates intimate friends.*

Proverbs 26:20 _____

*²⁰For lack of wood the fire goes out,
and where there is no whisperer,
contention quiets down.*

Proverbs 26:21 _____

*²¹Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire,
so is a contentious man to kindle strife.*

1. Beside each verse, write the actions that help conflict start and grow.

2. Explain what Proverbs 26:20 means.

Section 11:4 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Proverbs 18:6 _____

*⁶A fool's lips bring strife,
and his mouth calls for blows.*

Proverbs 20:3 _____

*³Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man,
but any fool will quarrel.*

Proverbs 22:10 _____

*¹⁰Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out,
even strife and dishonor will cease.*

1. Certain kinds of people seem to love conflict. What kind of people does the Bible call them?

2. Beside each verse, write the kinds of people that help conflict start and grow.

Section 11:5 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Proverbs 3:30 _____

³⁰*Do not contend with a man without cause,
if he has done you no harm.*

Proverbs 17:14 _____

¹⁴*The beginning of strife is like letting out water,
so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.*

Proverbs 25:8 _____

⁸*Do not go out hastily to argue your case;
Otherwise, what will you do in the end,
When your neighbor humiliates you?*

Proverbs 26:17 _____

¹⁷*Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by
and meddles with strife not belonging to him.*

1. Beside each verse, write the kinds of situations that seem to help conflict to grow.
2. Give a real-life example of one of these verses in action.

Section 11:6 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Ephesians 4:25-27

²⁵*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of
you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*

²⁶*Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on
your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

1. Many Bible passages teach how to or how NOT to act and speak. Read Ephesians 4:20-24 and have your leader explain it to you.
2. Which sins does the writer mention in verses 25-27?
3. What is the best way for God's children to avoid speaking and living a lie? (v. 25)
4. In vs. 26-27, why do you think we are told, "Do not let the sun go down on your anger"?
5. What danger of anger does the last part of v. 27 warn us about?

Section 11:7 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verse from memory, and answer the questions below.

Ephesians 4:28

²⁸He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

1. Which of the ten commandments is on the writer's mind here?
2. What should we do with our hands instead of using them to steal?
3. The last part of the verse teaches that instead of stealing from others, we should be looking for opportunities to do what for people in need?

Section 11:8 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verse from memory, and answer the questions below.

Ephesians 4:29

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

1. Read Ephesians 4:20-28. Explain the passage to your leader.
2. Keeping a guard on our lips is probably the hardest thing in the world to do, but it is one of the most important things we can do. What are unwholesome words?
3. What does "good for edification" mean?
4. List three ways that you can actually use your mouth in helpful ways instead of hurtful ways.

Section 11:9 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses from memory,
and answer the questions below.

Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*

³²*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Once again we see opposites listed. Verse 31 mentions a list of attitudes and actions that need to be “put away” from someone trying to follow Jesus. Everything in the list is a separate sin, but very often those sins show up together.

1. Read Ephesians 4:20-30. Explain the passage to your leader.
2. Do you have any of these sins (v. 31) in your heart toward someone else right now?

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3. Verse 32 describes God’s way to approach situations with others. What important reason does God give to help us know why we should be forgiving?

Section 11:10 _____ Date _____