



*Session 12:*  
**Conflict**



**Aims For this  
session**

- To realise that conflict is normal
- To understand what the Bible says about conflict
- To give the children the tools to deal with conflict



## Memory Verse

When you are angry,  
don't let that anger  
make you sin, and  
don't stay angry all  
day.

Ephesians 4:26 (ERV)



## Catch Up (10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for guidance on how to run this section.



## Healing (5 mins)

(This is based on teaching from Session 9, Term 2 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes from this term.)

*Is there something you would like healed? Or is there someone you know who is sick? If the answer is 'Yes', just put your hand up. Can the people around them please pray.*

Remember to remind them to: ask, tell it to go, wait, see what God did and pray again. Allow the children time to do this. Then ask what God did.



## God Spot (5 mins)

### Resource:

- Yellow mat

Use your yellow mat. Ask the children what good things God has been doing in their life this week and ask them to come and share on the God spot while everyone else listens. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1. If you haven't done this session then refer to the teaching notes from that term.)



## Game 1 (5 mins)

Ask the children to move into pairs and play 'Rock, Paper, Scissors'. Explain they say, 'rock, paper, scissors,' as they bounce their fists in the air. On 'scissors', players pick either rock, paper or scissors (rock hand kept as fist, paper hand flat, scissors is two fingers made to look like open scissors). If both players choose the same object, they go again. Rock crushes scissors; scissors cut paper; paper covers rock. The first to three wins.



## Bible Story (3 mins)

Based on Mark 10:35-45

*Did you know Jesus' followers argued? Well they did. Listen to this from the book of Mark in the New Testament:*

*James and John had been arguing back and forth for a while. They couldn't agree, so they had decided to talk to Jesus. 'Jesus, let one of us sit at your right and the other on your left when you rule with God.' James and John just wanted to know which one of them meant more to Jesus. You see, sitting on the right was thought better than the left.*

*Jesus sighed and said, 'You don't understand what you are asking. Are you happy to do the things I will do?' 'Yes,' they both said without thinking. 'Well,' said Jesus, 'then you will, but I can't tell you which of you will sit on the left or the right: that's not my decision.'*

*The other disciples overheard this and started arguing with James and John. Jesus stopped the arguing and calmly told them all, 'You seek power, don't - instead serve each other. If you want to be first in the queue in heaven then serve here on earth, give your life for others.'*



## Talk 5-7

(5 mins)

Put your hand up if you've ever had an argument with someone else? (Have all the helpers put their hands up.) We all fall out with other people sometimes. It's normal to disagree with our friends or our brothers or sisters or even our mums and dads. We think different things or want different things sometimes. It's ok to tell the other person what you think but, when we have a disagreement, sometimes it looks like this.

My friend Lily and I argued about something. I told my friends Sophie and Jack that Lily was mean to me and that she was wrong. They both agreed she was wrong and said they wouldn't play with her anymore. So we ignored Lily. Lily told her friends Chloe and Alfie that we were being mean to her and they decided not to play with us anymore. When we saw each other in the playground, all of us called each other names and laughed at each other. The next day I called Lily a name and she hit me. I told a teacher and Lily got into trouble.

Did you know the Bible tells us how to deal with an argument? It is really simple and God's way of sorting out the problem helps everyone. God knows we will argue and fight sometimes, but He wants to make sure we protect each other and sort it out really properly. He gives us three simple things to do:

First... If someone does something that hurts you or makes you mad, the Bible says go to them to sort it out.

Second... Explain to them what hurt and why. Not in an angry voice but in a calm voice.

Third... Forgive each other and, if you can, pray together. If your friend isn't a Christian they probably won't want to pray with you, but you can still forgive them. It doesn't mean your feelings are all sorted, but it does mean that you make a choice with your head. In your head you choose to say, 'I forgive you,' even if it still hurts in your heart. God will help your heart to feel better when you make this choice.

If that doesn't work, the Bible says go to someone who is older and can help you sort it out. So in church you could go one of your group leaders or in school, a teacher or at home, a parent.

The Bible says we shouldn't get our friends involved so they don't gang up on the person who we've fallen out with.

Remember last week we talked about making sure weeds don't grow in our hearts? Well, dealing with hurt feelings in this way is one way to make sure we don't get weeds in our hearts.



## Talk 8-10

(5 mins)

- Have you ever had a fight with someone else?
- What happened to your friendship?

We all mess up sometimes; I mess up, you mess up and when we do, it can affect other people. When people get upset with each other at school what happens? Let's think about if Sam was mean to Jack. Jack is hurt so he tells another friend about Sam to get someone on his side. Other people get involved too. They all say how terrible Sam is to hurt Jack. They may even pick on Sam themselves to even things up. The teacher can get involved, parents can get involved and things can get even messier.

The Bible says there's a right way to deal with someone who upsets you. It has some really good ideas;

Read Matthew 18:15-17 together.

The first is for Jack to tell Sam that he is hurt by what Sam did. For example, 'Sam, when you did that, I felt left out.' Sam may not even have realised he hurt Jack and he says, 'Sorry,' straight away. Jack will then feel a whole lot better.

The second is to get a witness to help if the person doesn't listen. A good person to ask for help is a leader. They can sit down with you both and help work out the problem. This takes forgiveness from both of you. People rarely hurt us because they are just being nasty; there is usually a reason why they do what they do and sometimes the reason is something that we have done, but we didn't realise.



Thirdly, pray together if the other person is a Christian. If not, just pray for them and chat to God about your hurt feelings, then catch what God has to say. Let Him heal your heart - you will feel so much better.

This way of dealing with a problem takes being brave and speaking out to our friends when they mess up. I remember that I love and care for my friends so much that I want true friendship, I want to be honest with them so that we can always be good friends. If I'm not honest and I hide my hurts, they build up until I get so mad at the person I shout at them. I don't want that because it will ruin our friendship. God wants me to have great friends, and I need great friends so, when we argue, I want to make sure I deal with it in the way God's shown me.

## Response (7 mins)

### Resources:

- Paper and colouring pens

Ask everyone to draw a picture of themselves with their friends. Give them 5 minutes to do this.

As you look at this picture, ask God in your head to help you and your friends to stay friends. (Nod at me once you've done that.) Now ask God to help you all be honest and tell the truth calmly when someone upsets you. (Nod at me when you've done this.) Now ask God to help you forgive your friends when they mess up. (Nod at me when you've done this.)

## Action

The next time someone upsets you, try doing what we've spoken about today and come and tell us what God does.

## Craft (10 mins)

### Resources:

Resources (See Resources section for full details)

- Appendix 1
- Acetate sheets
- Permanent markers in different colours or glass pens
- A hole punch
- Ribbon or coloured string

Give each child x1 picture cut from Appendix 1. (Appendix 1 makes x4 pictures.) Give them the pens to decorate. Once decorated, hole punch the top of the picture and thread through ribbon or string to hang. Explain to the children this can be placed on a window at home to remind them to sort out arguments God's way.

## Game 2 (5 mins)

### Resources:

- Balloons
- Masking tape

Split your room into four quadrants using the masking tape. Divide your children into four teams (it doesn't matter if there are only 1 or 2 children in a team). Assign each a square. Release lots of blown up balloons into the room. The aim of the game is to get as many balloons into your square as possible. It is ok to steal from other squares - at the end of 5 minutes the square with the most balloons wins.



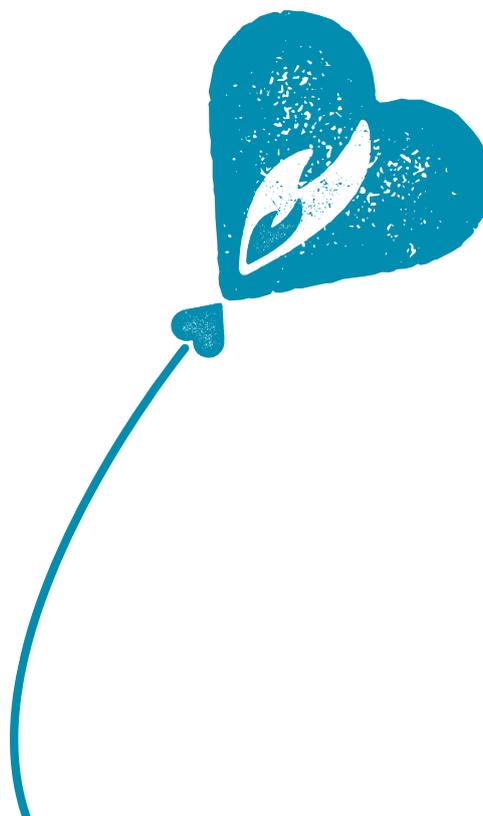
## Resources for this session

### God spot:

- Yellow mat

### Response

- Paper
  - Colouring pens
  - Appendix 1
  - Acetate sheets  
[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Laser-Copier-Acetate-Colour-Sheets/dp/B00J6C19QU/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?ie=UTF8&qid=1440090290&sr=8-12&keywords=acetate+for+printing](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Laser-Copier-Acetate-Colour-Sheets/dp/B00J6C19QU/ref=sr_1_12?ie=UTF8&qid=1440090290&sr=8-12&keywords=acetate+for+printing)
  - Permanent markers in different colours or glass pens  
[http://www.bakerross.co.uk/arts-and-crafts/arts-crafts-glass-painting-crafts?src=AW&utm\\_source=85386&utm\\_medium=affiliates&ref=85386&\\_sja=t-sid:22499&awc=1902\\_1440090582\\_d59736dcf04f-87bc68edff13f42609c1](http://www.bakerross.co.uk/arts-and-crafts/arts-crafts-glass-painting-crafts?src=AW&utm_source=85386&utm_medium=affiliates&ref=85386&_sja=t-sid:22499&awc=1902_1440090582_d59736dcf04f-87bc68edff13f42609c1)
  - A hole punch
  - Ribbon or coloured string
- ### Game 2:
- Masking tape
  - Balloons





## Parental communication

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our theme this week was; Conflict. Through Matthew 18:15-17 we explored how we can resolve our problems with other people. These are the steps we learnt:

First... If someone does something that hurts you or makes you mad, the Bible says go to them to sort it out.

Second... Explain to them what hurt and why. Not in an angry voice but in a calm voice.

Third... Forgive each other and, if you can, pray together. If your friend / relative isn't a Christian they probably won't want to pray with you, but you can still forgive them. It doesn't mean your feelings are all sorted, but it does mean that you make a choice with your head. In your head you choose to say, 'I forgive you,' even if it still hurts in your heart. God will help your heart to feel better when you make this choice.

Finally, if that doesn't work, the children were advised to involve an adult. If you would like to explore this as a family, have everyone think about when there is a disagreement in your house. What do people do? Then ask everyone to think how they would like it to be. Have a large sheet of paper and write down everyone's ideas, no matter how strange. Then give everyone a pen; ask them to tick the ones they would be happy to agree to when there is an argument. From this, all work on decorating and putting together a family poster which has specifics such as,

- we say when we are hurt or need to talk,
- we forgive each other,
- we are honest,
- we don't yell or put others down,
- we pray together after an argument etc.

Then have a pretend argument with different members of your family using the new family poster to resolve the issue. Then put the outcome into practice. Next week, we will be thinking about why we mess up some things repeatedly even though we mean not to through Romans 7:15.

Love