

Sometimes  
Christians  
= disagree =



**Quarter 2 — Lesson 23**



## Year 3—Quarter 2: The Church is God's Idea

# Sometimes Christians Disagree

### Introduction: Discussion

**Q:** What is the difference between a **disagreement** and a **conflict**?

**A: Disagreement** is when two people have different ideas or opinions but they talk about it calmly.

**A: Conflict** is when a disagreement turns into an argument or fight, and people get upset or angry.

**Q:** What is the difference between **reconciliation** and **resolution**?

**A: Reconciliation** is when people make up and become friends again after a disagreement or conflict.

**A: Resolution** is when people find a solution to a problem or disagreement.

**Q:** What is the difference between **being peaceful** and **being a peacemaker**?

**A: Being peaceful** is staying calm and not causing trouble.

**A: Being a peacemaker** is helping others stop fighting and get along.

**Next** we are going to break up into three huddle groups: 1st graders, 2nd graders, and 3rd & 4th graders. Each group will have a scenario to read.

### Power Point

When Christians disagree they should work through conflict.

### Opening Skit: The Big Fight

**Before the meeting**, ask two students to stage an argument.

After everyone has arrived, give the two actors you talked to beforehand the signal to begin their argument.

After they have argued for about a minute, say: Break it up. Please calm down and sit in your chairs.

**Ask the group:** How does it make you feel when others argue? Have you ever been in a conflict like this? If so, what happened?

Today we are going to look at the feelings surrounding conflict and discuss ways to deal with it.



### MEMORY VERSE

**“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”**  
- Matthew 18:15



## Year 3—Quarter 2: The Church is God's Idea

### Huddle Groups: Conflict Scenarios

#### Conflict Scenarios

(Group Leader Role)

- Identify a couple of kids in your group who are strong leaders.
- Read your group's scenario out loud.
- Allow your two leaders to brainstorm with the group about ideas for a skit and who could play each part.
- Guide them to decide quickly on one plan and begin working on it.
- If a conflict should arise in your group, use it for a "teaching moment" and help the group get back on task.
- Once you have a rough idea of your skit, have the actors go over it once or twice before presenting it to the whole class.

#### Scenario 2

Second Graders

Brenda is having a hard time in school. There are two girls in her class who never want her to play in their group at recess. She confided in Mark, a boy from her class who lives on her block, about the trouble she is having. The next day at lunch, Mark told another person in the class about what Brenda had said.

**Your Assignment:** Create a short skit that shows what happens when Brenda and Mark meet after Brenda discovers the he let her secret out.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

#### Scenario 1

First Graders

You and your sister are riding with your parents after church. As you are going to a restaurant, your sister begins to hit you with her seat belt. You respond by throwing one of your shoes at her. After a while, the disagreement escalates into both of you throwing punches, pulling hair, and pummeling each other.

**Your Assignment:** Create a short skit that shows what happens when you and your sister are at the height of your argument.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

#### Scenario 3

Third/Fourth Graders

Marcus had studied all evening for the spelling test. During the test, Rick whispered to Marcus to get help on a tough word. Marcus ignored Rick, so Rick whispered again. Mrs. Kirch has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating. After hearing Rick's second whisper, Mrs. Kirch ripped up both Marcus' and Rick's tests.

**Your Assignment:** Create a short skit that shows what happens when Marcus explains to Mrs. Kirch what happened.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

# Take-Home

## Year 3 Lesson 23 — Sometimes Christians Disagree

### Summary

#### Bible Passages:

Num. 12; Ep. 4:26;  
Mt. 18:15; Mt. 5:9

#### Main Point:

When Christians disagree they should work through conflict.

#### Discuss:

Q: What are the first steps we should take when we have a disagreement with someone?

Q: Why is it important to forgive others when resolving conflicts?

Q: Can you share a time when you had a conflict and how you resolved it?

Q: What did we learn from the Bible story of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses about handling conflicts?

### Explore the Bible

**Read:** Numbers 12 (*The story where Miriam and Aaron were upset with Moses*)

#### Discuss:

- What did Miriam and Aaron do wrong?
- How did God help resolve the conflict?
- What can we learn from this story about handling our own conflicts?

Give your family possible steps to resolve conflict, such as:  
1) Stay Calm; 2) Talk it Out; 3) Seek Help; 4) Forgive.

### Family Activity

#### Peace Poster:

Ask your family to draw a picture that represents peace and write a Bible verse about peace on their poster (e.g., Matthew 5:9).

#### Object Lesson: Broken Stapler:

- Show the broken stapler (or other item) and ask your family what they think you should do to fix it.
- Try a few methods (e.g., hitting it, shaking it) that don't work, then finally fix it properly.

**Explain** that just like fixing the stapler, resolving conflicts requires the right approach and sometimes help from others.

### Apply and Pray

**Ask** your family to share one thing they learned about resolving conflicts.

**Prayer:** Lead your child in a prayer, asking God to help us be peacemakers in our daily lives.

## Additional Resources for Leaders

### Understanding Conflict (*From Focus on the Family*)

**These Five A's can resolve conflict.** (*These simple steps will almost always lead to peace.*)

Children, like adults, can learn to confess their wrongs in a way that demonstrates they are taking full responsibility for their part in a conflict.

- **Admit what you did wrong.** Include both wrong desires and bad choices.
- **Apologize for how your choice affected the other person.** Express the sorrow you feel.
- **Accept the consequences for your wrongdoing** without argument or excuses.
  - Ask for forgiveness.
- **Alter your choice in the future.** Think over and plan how you are going to act differently next time.

### Notes on Being a Peacemaker:

**Escape Responses:** These responses are used to get away from a conflict instead of trying to resolve it. They delay healing.

- Denial – Pretending that a conflict does not exist or refusing to do what we can to work it out
- Blame Game – Blaming others for the problem, pretending we did nothing wrong, covering up what we did, lying
- Run Away – Prolonging the problem by running away from the other person

**Attack Responses:** These are wrong attempts to win a fight rather than resolve it. They damage a relationship further rather than repairing it.

- Put Downs – Attacking others with harsh and cruel words, stirring up anger in others
- Gossip – Talking about others behind their backs
- Fight – Using physical force to get our way

**Work-It-Out Responses:** These are the only good ways to respond to a conflict.

- Overlook an Offense – Dealing with an offense yourself by simply deciding to forgive a wrong
- Talk-It-Out – Going directly to the other person to talk out your disagreements
- Get Help – Asking a parent or teacher to help you decide how to handle the conflict you are involved in

**Why conflict is an opportunity:** By handling it right, we get a chance to glorify God, serve others and become better people.

Conflict is not necessarily bad or destructive. Even when conflict is caused by wrong-doing and causes a great deal of stress, it can lead to good. You can use conflict to:

- **Glorify God** (by trusting, obeying, and imitating him)
- **Serve other people** (by helping to bear their burdens or by confronting them in love)
- **Grow to be like Christ** (by confessing wrong and turning from attitudes that promote conflict)