

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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## Conflict

### The Four G’s Of Conflict Resolution

Conflict is not necessarily bad or destructive. Even when conflict is caused by sin and causes a great deal of stress, God can use it for good (see Romans 8:28-29). As the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, conflict actually provides three significant opportunities. By God’s grace, 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 sin and turning from attitudes that promote conflict).

These concepts are totally overlooked in most conflicts because people naturally focus on escaping from the situation or overcoming their opponent. Therefore, it is wise to periodically step back from a conflict and ask yourself whether you are doing all that you can to take advantage of these special opportunities.

#### 1st G: Glorify God.

When the Apostle Paul urged the Corinthians to live “to the glory of God,” he was not talking about one hour on Sunday morning. He wanted them to show God honor and bring him praise in day-to-day life, especially by the way that they resolved personal conflicts (see 1 Corinthians 10:31).

#### 2nd G: Get the log out of your own eye.

One of the most challenging principles of peacemaking is set forth in Matthew 7:5, where Jesus says, “You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

#### 3rd G: Gently Restore.

Another key principle of peacemaking involves an effort to help others understand how they have contributed to a conflict.

#### 4th G: Go and be reconciled.

Even though Christians have experienced the greatest forgiveness in the world, we often fail to show that forgiveness to others.

## KEY VERSE

*“A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”* (Proverbs 15:1, NKJV)

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

How would you define conflict?

Where has conflict occurred most in your life? Work, home, community?

What is your greatest strength in dealing with conflict?

What are the 3 opportunities conflict provides? (See front of Growth Guide.)

This week let's look at the 4 G's of Conflict resolution.

**Tuesday: Read Proverbs 3:4-6; John 14:15; Ephesians 5:1**

### **Glorify God.**

Do you desire to bring honor to God's name on a daily basis?

How can trusting, obeying and imitating Christ help you in resolving conflict?

Write a phrase that will help you for each of the three areas below.

- When I am in conflict, I will trust God by?
- When I am in conflict I will obey God by?
- When I am in conflict I will imitate God by?

**Wednesday: Read Matthew 7:1-6; Proverbs 9:7-8; Acts 13:45**

### **Get the log out of your own eye.**

The principle set forth in Matthew 7:5 may be the most challenging in conflict resolution. There are generally two kinds of "logs" you need to look for when dealing with conflict.

First, you need to ask whether you have had a critical, negative, or overly sensitive attitude that has led to unnecessary conflict.

The second kind of log you must deal with is actual sinful words and actions. Think of a conflict you may be in. Where have you been critical, negative or overly sensitive? What sinful words and actions have you taken that contributed to the conflict? Because you are often blind to your own sins, you may need an honest friend or advisor who will help you to take an objective look at yourself and face up to your contribution to a conflict.

**Thursday: Read Matthew 18:12-20; Galatians 6:1; Proverbs 19:11**

### **Gently restore.**

Another key principle of peacemaking involves an effort to help others understand how they have contributed to a conflict.

According to Galatians 6:1, what should our attitude and purpose be when we go to our brother or sister?

Yet even before you go to talk with someone, remember that it is appropriate to overlook minor offenses (see Proverbs 19:11). As a general rule, an offense should be overlooked if you can answer "no" to all of the following questions:

- Is the offense seriously dishonoring God?
- Has it permanently damaged a relationship?
- Is it seriously hurting other people?
- Is it seriously hurting the offender them self?

**Friday: Read Colossians 3:12-14; Psalm 103:12**

### **Go and be reconciled.**

Even though Christians have experienced the greatest forgiveness in the world, we often fail to show that forgiveness to others.

Through forgiveness God tears down the walls that our sins have built, and he opens the way for a renewed relationship with him. This is exactly what we must do if we are to forgive as the Lord forgives us: We must release the person who has wronged us from the penalty of being separated from us. We must not hold wrongs against others, not think about the wrongs, and not punish others for them. Therefore, forgiveness may be described as a decision to make four promises:

1. "I will not dwell on this incident."
2. "I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you."
3. "I will not talk to others about this incident."
4. "I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship."

Forgiveness may be the hardest thing a Christian must learn to do. We also need to understand what it means to truly forgive. It is the only path to true freedom.

What is one area of your life that you need to experience the freedom of forgiving others?