

✘ Peaceful Conflict Resolution ✘

YOUNG PERSON SERVES IN THE COMMUNITY ONE HOUR OR MORE PER WEEK.

By Stephanie Wood

Edited by Lyle Griner and Marie Sundet © 2006 EveryDay LLC, Bloomington, MN

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Paper Conflict

1 Kings 3:16-28: ...and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to render justice.



- When you think about conflict what images come to mind?
- In the paper exercise how do people try and solve conflict?
- What results in the various ways people try to resolve conflict?
- When can conflicts be solved peacefully?
- When is force or violence needed?
- What does or doesn't justify a war?
- What needs and values that prompted the dispute in the 1 Kings story?
- What might have been the outcomes that each of the women desired?
- What other alternatives might King Solomon have used to solve this conflict?
- How does your faith shape what you believe or think about conflict?
- What conflicts do you personally have to deal with?
- How do you attempt to solve conflicts?
- What steps can you take to resolve conflict peacefully?
- When do you seek help in resolving a conflict?

So What?

Pick one of the following that best describes your reflection on this discussion and complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering
- I am feeling...

Candle Time

Place a sheet of paper in the center of the group. Mark one side with the words Today is a Good Day, the other side, Today is a Hard Day. Invite everyone to contribute words representing personal stories, news related issues, conflicts and celebration. Close in prayers naming the various descriptions.

EXPLORE

Ephesians 4:26	Be angry but do not sin; do not let...
Matthew 5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers, ...
Proverbs 24:17	Do not rejoice when your enemy falls.
Colossians 3:13	As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Matthew 5:44 (38-48)	Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
Ephesians 4: 31-32	... forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



▣ *Leader Page* ▣

Discussion Goal

Service Set or reach an expectation.

Background

Expectations. They are an everyday occurrence, but they have a bigger impact on our lives than we realize. There are little expectations...like we expect people to abide by driving laws and we expect the news reporters to do their jobs to find out the next big story to keep us informed. There are also expectations set for us everyday by various people. We are expected to go to school or work, pay bills, take care of where we live, etc. Although these expectations are important, these are not the only expectations that people have for their lives.

As kids, adults in our lives set expectations for us to succeed in life. We achieve these goals and expectations by continuing and doing well in school, getting a well paid job, etc. As well as the other expectations for our lives set by other people, we need to set our own expectations for ourselves. These are the most important goals and expectations for our lives (besides God's goals and expectations for our lives) because we know what we are capable of and what is really challenging for us. Without these goals and expectations being set, there is less of a chance that we will be successful.

Most people naturally feel like they are not adequate to do anything challenging. The way we overcome these feelings is by succeeding at reaching goals that people have set for us. In Exodus, Moses feels inadequate to do what God is asking him to do. This does not stop God from setting extremely high expectations for Moses to free the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God continues to push him along and encourage him until Moses is successful in reaching all of the expectations. God and the important people in our lives continue to encourage and push us to succeed on a daily basis.

Motivate:

Activity with translating languages. (The attached two pages are for this activity. Start the exercise by handing out one strip of paper and ask them to translate it into the corresponding language. Act kind of tough and say "I expect you to have this done in x number of minutes. Then lead into the questions about unrealistic expectations.)



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