

# Week 2: Conflict Provides Opportunities

1. Review: Peacefakers, Peacebreakers, and Peacemakers
2. **MP: Conflict is an opportunity to show God's love and power in our lives.**
3. One way that I tried remembering to act as a Christian during a conflict:  

---
4. Ice Breaker: Is all conflict bad?
  - a. No, the Bible shows that conflict from differences can be beneficial if handled correctly. (Acts 15: 37-40, 1 Corinthians 12:21-31)
  - b. Four main causes = misunderstandings, differences, competition, and sinful attitudes
5. Think of a personality or temperament difference between you and someone to whom you relate (spouse, child, co-worker, etc.). Describe how that difference can actually benefit you and the other person.

---

---

---

---

6. Three opportunities in conflict:
  - a. Glorify God
    - i. Trust God - (Prov 3:5)
    - ii. Obey God - (John 15:8)
    - iii. Imitate God - (Eph 5:1-2; Eph 4:3)
    - iv. Acknowledge God - (Phil 2:13; Psalm 37:31)

Describe a time you responded to conflict in a way that might have appeared "unnatural" to others but which you used as an opportunity to testify to God's power.

---

---

---

- b. Serve Others(Star or circle the you will commit to work on this week)
  - i. Help an opponent find better solutions, than what they could on their own (Phil 2:3-4)
  - ii. Carry and opponent's burden (Gal 6:2)

- iii. Help others learn where they have erred (*Gal 6:1*)
- iv. Provide opportunities to introduce others to Christ (*1 Pet 3:15*)
- v. Encourage by your example (*1 Cor. 4:12*)

**c. Grow to Be like Christ (*Rom 8:29*)**

- i. Remind you of your weakness and depend on Christ (*2 Cor. 12:8-9*)
- ii. Expose sinful habits and attitudes (*Ps. 119:67*)
- iii. Depend on grace to draw on new habits and attitudes (*2 Cor. 5:17*)

**What is the difference between *going* through conflict versus *growing* through conflict?**

- To grow during conflict: a.) Ask God to help you resist escaping or attacking tendencies. b.) Help to live out the gospel by responding with peacemaking responses
- Strive for the reality of peace, not the mere appearance of peace

**d. Recurring Themes of Peace in the Bible**

- i. Rom 15:33; 2 Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; Heb 13:20; Judges 6:24

1.

- ii. Lev 26:6; Num 6:24-26; Judg 5:31; Ps 29:11; 119:165; Prov 16:7; Mic 4:1-4; Gal 6:16

1.

- iii. Ps 34:14; Jer 29:7; Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 7:15; 2 Cor 13:11; Col 3:15; 1 Thess 5:13; Heb 12:14

1.

- iv. Num 25:12; Isa 54:10; Ezek 34:25, 37:26; Mal 2:5

1.

- v. Judg 6:23; 1 Sam 16:5, Luke 24:36; 1 Sam 1:17; 2 Kings 5:19; Luke 7:50, 8:48; Rom 1:7, 15:13; Gal 1:3; 2 Thess 3:16

1.

**e. Which of the three opportunities in conflict is easiest for you and which is most difficult? (Glorify God, Serve Others, Grow like Christ)**

**f. If you were to pray for God to help you change one way in which you view conflict so you can begin seeing it as an opportunity, what would it be?**