



ARGUING TEACHING GUIDE

1 LESSON



MAIN SCRIPTURE:
James 1:19 NIV

MAIN POINT:
You never win an argument if you lose the relationship.

JESUS CONNECTION:
When we have faith in Jesus our broken relationship with God is restored.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that the real “win” in an argument is to love the other person, even if we disagree with them, and that the person is more valuable than the argument.

THINK ABOUT THIS

The best thing you can do as a leader is help students MOBILIZE THEIR FAITH so they can keep pursuing authentic faith and discover a personal mission beyond graduation. Your students may come from various cultures and backgrounds and depending on what happens at home, there may be different ideas for the difference between fighting and arguing. **Before this conversation starts, think through the homes your students are coming from.** Also, we have a lot of divides in our world today. As you discuss conflict some differences of opinions may come up. **Before you begin today, remember your group that small groups aren't about winning any political or theological arguments and a goal today is to see each other and more valuable than any argument.**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What's the dumbest argument you've ever had?
What made it a dumb argument?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your go to fighting style? (*Yelling, shutting down, etc.*)
2. Who do you get in the most arguments with? Why do you think there are some people you argue with more? (*Some relationships feel safer, people we disagree with on topics we are really passionate about, people that just annoy us.*)
3. How have you seen your fighting style affect your relationship?

READ JAMES 1:19 and answer the following questions:

4. Which one of these statements come naturally and which one is the hardest for you?
5. What's the difference between being slow to anger and letting people walk all over you?
6. Think about the last argument you had and how it affected your relationship with that person. What would you change about how it went with a goal of preserving the relationship? What went well?
7. What boundaries do you need to put in place in order to argue in a healthier way?
8. What does a healthy relationship look like after the argument?

NEXT STEP

James says we should be slow to speak. Let's brainstorm some things we can do while we are waiting to speak that can help us see the other person as a person and not just a position in an argument.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

Give your students some space for silent prayer and encourage them to think of the person they argue with the most and ask God to help them to be quick to listen and slow to become angry with that person.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

James 1:19 NIV

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Which meme do you relate to the most?

parents start arguing



Just for fun activity: show these pictures and/or give your students 2 minutes to research on the internet and have them each pick the arguing meme they relate to the most.