HOW NOT TO WIN AN ARGUMENT

LEADER PREP

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

SCRIPTURE
James 1:19 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP
To help students understand that the real "win" in an argument is to preserve the relationship with the other person, even if we disagree with them, and that the argument doesn't have value but the person does.

THINK ABOUT THIS
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, remind your students not to name drop during this conversation. They can talk about arguements they've had without naming names.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN
- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- What is your go to fighting style? (Yelling, shutting down, etc.)

THE WORD
- READ James 1:19. Which one of these statements comes naturally and which one does not?
- What's the difference between being slow to anger and letting people walk all over you?
- Think about the last argument you had. Think how it affected your relationship with that person. What might you change about it if you could go back in time and have to goal of "winning the relationship" instead of "winning the argument"? What went well?
- What are some bad things to do during an argument?
- What are some good things to do during an argument?

APPLICATION
- Let's brainstorm together: James said we should be slow to speak. What are some things we can do while waiting to speak that can help us focus on the goal of loving the other person over winning the argument?

COMMUNITY BUILD
- How can we connect outside of small group time and have fun together?

PRAY
We are going to close in prayer.
Anyone have any prayer requests?

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,"

NOTES