



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that conflict is inevitable in friendships and how best to handle conflict when it arises.

MAIN POINT

When it comes to conflict, WIN the FRIENDSHIP not the fight.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 15:2-6 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

The need for acceptance can drive all us, teenagers and adults, to make bad decisions. Again this week, remind your students of God's acceptance of them, their identity in Him, and your acceptance of them – no matter what. This may help them take a more real and honest look at their friendships.

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.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

- What is the dumbest thing you've ever argued about with a friend? (no name calling or fresh arguments – dumb/silly arguments only)
- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.
- What are some different ways, good or bad, people respond to conflict?

INTO THE WORD

READ 2 Samuel 15:2-6 and answer the following questions. Set up the scripture by reminding students "Absalom really wanted to WIN the argument with his dad, let's read more":

1. What was Absalom doing in these verses?
2. Do you think Absalom was focused more on winning the fight or restoring his relationship with his dad? Why?
3. Why can it be so easy to focus more on winning the fight than winning the relationship?
4. What are ways when we are fighting or in conflict with someone we can slow down and gain a better perspective?
5. How can we take our anger, and other feelings, to God?

NEXT STEP

Are you fighting or in conflict with anyone right now? How can you slow down, go to God with your feelings, and humbly approach that person in a way to win the friendship and not the fight?

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal that to you. Talk to a mentor or parent if you have questions about how to do that.

PRAYER GUIDE

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

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Scripture is provided for convenience, but we prefer you and your students open your Bibles to read the Scripture. This helps your students learn how to find Scripture in their Bibles and where these verses are in the larger context of God's Word.

2 Samuel 15:2-6 NLT

²He got up early every morning and went out to the gate of the city. When people brought a case to the king for judgment, Absalom would ask where in Israel they were from, and they would tell him their tribe. ³Then Absalom would say, "You've really got a strong case here! It's too bad the king doesn't have anyone to hear it. ⁴I wish I were the judge. Then everyone could bring their cases to me for judgment, and I would give them justice!"

⁵When people tried to bow before him, Absalom wouldn't let them. Instead, he took them by the hand and kissed them. ⁶Absalom did this with everyone who came to the king for judgment, and so he stole the hearts of all the people of Israel.