

THE WCCA PEACEMAKER

A program adapted from Corlette Sande's *The Young Peacemaker*

Biblical Principles for Conflict Resolution

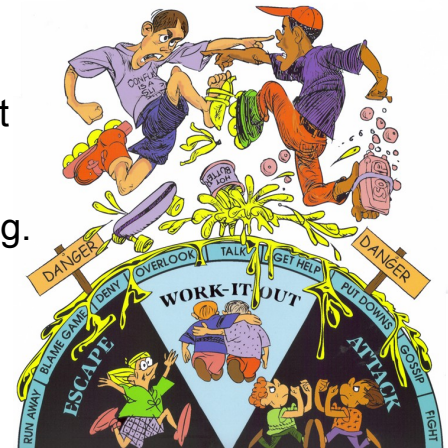


Matthew 5:9 - Romans 12:18 - James 4:1 - Ephesians 4:29, 32 - Proverbs 13:10 - Proverbs 21:23 - Galatians 6:7 - I Corinthians 10:31

Here are 12 key principles that young peacemakers need to learn:

- 1. Conflict is a slippery slope.** Some children try to escape from a conflict, while others try to solve it by going on the attack. Few naturally try to work it out.
- 2. Conflict starts in the heart.** The choices we make to get our own way are deliberate. We decide whether to be obedient or disobedient, wise or foolish, caring or unloving.
- 3. Choices have consequences.** For good or bad, the choices we make will affect us and others. Conflict is often the consequence of a choice we have made.
- 4. Wise-way choices are better than my-way choices.**

Selfishness is not smart and will not lead to happiness. The wise way is to obey authority, make right choices, seek godly advice, and respect others.
- 5. The blame game makes conflict worse.** It doesn't work to point the finger at someone else, cover up one's own bad choices, or make excuses.
- 6. Conflict is an opportunity.** By handling it right we get a chance to glorify God, serve others, and become better people.
- 7. The "Five A's" can resolve conflict.** These simple steps will almost always lead to peace.
- 8. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.** By forgiving someone, we are making four promises.
- 9. It is never too late to start doing what's right.** You can always stop doing wrong, then think about a better way and plan how to pursue it.
- 10. Think before you speak.** Or before you act. Or before you confront someone.
- 11. Respectful communication is more likely to be heard.** This includes the words we speak, our tone of voice, and our body language (making eye contact and avoiding bad gestures, facial expressions, or posture).
- 12. A respectful appeal can prevent conflict.** Learn how to make one.



Conflict Is a Slippery Slope

There is danger ahead if you slip. The slope is divided into three zones:

The Escape Zone: Deny, Blame Game, and Run Away

Escape Responses—These responses are used to get away from a conflict instead of trying to resolve it. They delay healing.

Denial — *Pretending that a conflict does not exist or refusing to do what we can to work it out*

Blame Game — *Blaming others for the problem, pretending we did nothing wrong, covering up what we did, lying*

Run Away — *Prolonging the problem by running away from the other person*

The Attack Zone: Put Downs, Gossip, Fight

Attack Responses—These are wrong attempts to win a fight rather than resolve it. They damage a relationship further rather than repairing it.

Put Downs — *Attacking others with harsh and cruel words, stirring up anger in others*

Gossip — *Talking about others behind their backs*

Fight — *Using physical force to get our way*

The Work-It-Out Zone: Overlook, Talk-It-Out, and Get Help

Work-It-Out Responses—These are the only good ways to respond to a conflict.

Overlook an Offense — *Dealing with an offense yourself by simply deciding to forgive a wrong*

Talk-It-Out — *Going directly to the other person to talk out your disagreements*

Get Help — *Asking a parent or teacher to help you decide how to handle the conflict you are involved in*

The Five A's Can Resolve Conflict

Children, like adults, can learn to confess their wrongs in a way that demonstrates they are taking full responsibility for their part in a conflict.

1. **Admit** what you did wrong. Include both wrong desires and bad choices.
2. **Apologize** for how your choice affected the other person. Express the sorrow you feel.
3. **Accept** the consequences for your wrongdoing without argument or excuses.
4. **Ask** for forgiveness.
5. **Alter** your choice in the future. Think over and plan how you are going to act differently next time.

A Respectful Appeal

Stop — yourself from choosing to say or do something that will cause conflict.

Think — Think about why you want to appeal and about what words to use.

Appeal (Ask) — Using “I” messages and questions, communicate your appeal in a respectful way.

Respond — Be prepared to respond respectfully whether the other person answers yes or no.