

# Fight Right: Handling Conflicts

The Way of Wisdom: Living in God's World

Passages: Prov. 15:1; Matt. 18:15-17

Rev. Bruce Persons | Aug. 10, 2025

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## I. Why Conflict Isn't Always Bad?

## II. The Wise Way to Fight (Prov. 15:1)

## III. Jesus' Blueprint for Redeeming Conflict (Matt. 18:15-17)

The Goal: \_\_\_\_\_, Not Winning

## IV. How to Fight Right This Week

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### *SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

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1. In your own words, what does Proverbs 15:1 teach us about handling conflict?
2. How have you seen a gentle answer turn away wrath in your life?
3. Why do you think Jesus' first instruction in Matthew 18 is to go privately to the person?
4. What dangers come from talking to others before talking to the person directly?
5. What does "winning them over" mean in the context of conflict?
6. How does fighting right reflect the gospel to a watching world?
7. Who do you need to go to this week for the sake of reconciliation?

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### *FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE*

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**Memory Verse:** "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1)

#### **Family Talk:**

1. Share a time in your family when a gentle answer made things better.
2. Talk about why Jesus says to talk to someone directly when there's a problem.
3. Role-play: One person pretends to say something hurtful. The other responds in a gentle way. Switch roles.

#### **Activity Idea:**

- Create a "Peace Plan" poster for your family:

- Pause and Pray
- Speak Gently
- Go to the Person
- Aim to Make Peace

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