
HOW TO THROW DOWN WITHOUT A SHOWDOWN

WEEK # 2



Week # 2: Fighting Second

We all have conflicts. They can be manageable, and even life-changing for the good. During this series, we will focus on our conflict management skills.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever engaged in a conflict with someone who had hurt you and in the process you realized that you were the source or cause of it? Describe the conflict and discuss as a group.

2. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.**

Jesus says that we're required to forgive our brother seventy-seven times (in some translations seventy times seven). That's a lot of forgiveness! Why are we required to forgive this much?

Read Genesis 4:23-24. Whereas Cain's sin of killing his brother Abel was to be returned seven-fold by God, Lamech boasts that he's killed a man for wounding him and a young man (think teenager) for striking him, and that he'll return vengeance to any adversary seventy-seven fold.

Having read Matthew 18:21-22 and Genesis 4:23-24, how are you more likely to respond during a conflict - like Jesus or like Lamech? Why? Discuss your responses as a group.

3. After Jesus shares the teaching about forgiveness, he shares a parable about an unforgiving servant. Why is the servant unmerciful? Why is the human tendency more often than not, to withhold forgiveness rather than extend it? How do you struggle with this in your own life?

4. On Sunday, you learned to fight second. The core of this teaching came from Matthew 7:3.

Read Matthew 7:3. How do the unmerciful servant from Matthew 18 and Lamech from Genesis 4 lack an understanding of the lesson of pulling the log out of one's own eye?

In what ways does our lack of extending forgiveness display an inability to consider the sin in our own lives and the grace we have received from God and others?

5. What are some practical steps to "take the log out of your own eye"?

BE THE REVOLUTION

When conflict arises, fight second - be humbled by reflecting on your own part in the conflict and considering the ways in which you have been forgiven first.

RENOVATING THE HEART

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart...(Matthew 18:35).