

CALLED OUT To Work It Out

Jeremy Peters & Lisa Peters

Scenario 1 – Acts 15:1-21

Conflict resolution through _____
and _____.

Acts 15:1-2a NLT

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently....

1. **Be clear on the ‘_____.’** (Acts 15:6-18)

2. **Agree on the ‘_____.’** (Acts 15:19-21)

CALLED OUT

a journey through the book of ACTS

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SCENARIO 2 – Acts 15:36-41

Conflict resolution by _____ one another
to pursue different _____.

Acts 15:36-41 NLT

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing.” Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord’s gracious care. Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there.

Why does God place deep convictions in people that seem to oppose each other?

1. **Spiritual _____**

1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

Sin easily hides where there is no heat of trials and afflictions.

~ John Bevere

2. Ensure all _____ are passionately _____

Necessary Characteristics for Conflict Resolution

Colossians 3:13 NLT

Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others.

1. _____

Philippians 2:3 NLT

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

2. _____

Matthew 5:43-47 NLT

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

3. _____

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1. What is your most common approach to conflict? Share a scenario in which you felt like you were a part of navigating conflict well and perhaps a scenario where conflict was not navigated well.
2. What kinds of factors sometimes keep us from being able to identify the root issue(s) when conflict arises? (ie. so we end up arguing/debating over secondary issues?)
3. Why is it important to address the 'why' when in conflict before moving to address the 'what' and the 'how?' Do you recognize a tendency to jump to trying to work out the details before you've agreed on expectations and values?
4. Does the idea that God sometimes intends for us to resolve conflict through a 'parting of ways' seem strange to you? Why do you think that is? What characteristics are essential in order for this kind of decision to still allow for ministry fruitfulness?
5. Pastor Jeremy talked about the necessary reasons for conflict to arise between people of differing positions - spiritual formation and ensuring all priorities are addressed passionately. How do you interact with these ideas? What challenges you? Have there been instances where you've strongly disagreed with someone who may have had strong and valid justification for their position?
6. Our Canadian culture strongly urges us to avoid conflict and it seems that the Bible does the opposite - with the qualifiers of humility, grace and forgiveness. What does it mean to engage conflict with humility, grace and forgiveness but without being passive (ie. a false keeping of the peace)?
7. Which of these three aspects taken from Colossians 3:13 (ie. humility, grace, forgiveness) do you personally find the most difficult to act out? Why do you think that is?
8. As you feel comfortable, what did you feel like Jesus might be saying to you in the listening prayer exercise at the end of the message? Pray for one another accordingly.