

Lesson 7. 24– The Disciples Argue Part I: Arbitration

Topic: Conflict Management

Subtopic: Arbitration

4B. Communication

4D. Conflict Management

Class: Standard VII (Grade 7)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know the meaning of arbitration, negotiation and mediation. **Attitude:** Students will desire to be mediators and negotiators for peace.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: Matthew 20:20-28

Memory Verse: Matthew 20:27b “If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest.”

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Optional Worship*

Ask students: Have you ever had two friends who were fighting with each other? What did you do?

Bible Story: Have a student read the Bible Story and discuss (See Teacher’s Guide.)

Application: Write three words on the board and give their definitions.

Negotiation- Two who disagree reach agreement through discussion and compromise

Arbitration – A third party makes a judgement.

Mediation – A third party helps both sides reach agreement.

Discuss and write rules for mediation:

- Do not give advice.
- Get agreement to talk it over
- Clarify and summarize
- Help find common ground.
- Help work through the Problem Solving Process

Have small group discussion.

Evaluation: Do you find yourself in the role of mediator or are you more likely to give advice? Try using mediation rather than arbitration next time students come to you with a problem.

Student Activities

Introduction: Students tell about times when their friends have been fighting.

Bible Story: Student reads Matthew 20:20-28 Discuss the Bible Story. In this story Jesus’ disciples are arguing over who will be greatest. Jesus settles the argument by telling them they should seek to serve not to be greatest.

Application: Discuss the difference between negotiation, arbitration and mediation. Discuss rules for mediation.

Small Group Discussion. Share examples and experiences with these three types of problem solving. Tell which type of problem solving was used for each example.

Evaluation: Are students able to tell the difference between three kinds of problem solving? Are students able to identify examples of each?

Extension Activities: Writing. Write a story about someone who used mediation to solve a conflict. It can be a real life conflict that happened to you or you can make up a story. Students may do this alone or with a partner or small group.

Conflicts in the news. If you have old newspapers, let students look for examples of conflicts on a community or national level (or you can find some examples ahead of time.) Can they find (or think of) any examples where mediation or arbitration was used?

Servant Leadership. Discuss the kind of leadership Jesus encouraged. Give examples from scripture of how Jesus or one of the disciples showed this kind of leadership. Do you know anyone who displays this kind of leadership? How is a mediator a servant leader?

Memory Verse: Practice saying the memory verse with a partner.

Notes for Teacher

In today's story Jesus' disciples argue over who is going to be greatest and Jesus settles the argument by bringing them together and talking to them. He is using arbitration to settle this argument. Students will learn the difference between negotiation, arbitration and mediation.

Key Points: Peacemakers can help their friends solve conflict by using mediation.

Introduction: Ask students two questions and invite them to share examples.

- Have you ever had two friends who were fighting with each other?
- What did you do?

Bible Story: Have a student Reader read the story from Matthew 20:20-28. Use the questions below to guide the discussion.

- What were the sons of Zebedee (James and John) requesting? (seats of honor in Jesus' kingdom)
- What did Jesus tell them? (God the Father would decide that but they would share in the suffering of Jesus)
- How did the other ten disciples react? (They started to argue because they all wanted to be in the most important places of honor.)
- What did Jesus do? (He called them together and talked to them.)
- What did He tell them? (Leaders in His kingdom would be those who served others; not those who fought for leadership.)
- Read the memory verse together.

Application: Write three words on the board with the definitions as students copy them in their journal.

Negotiation- Two who disagree reach agreement through discussion and compromise.

Arbitration – A third party makes a judgement.

Mediation – A third party helps both sides reach agreement.

These are three different ways we can solve a conflict. Can someone give me an example of negotiation? (Example: Disagreement with a sibling or friend. The two talk it over and work it out.) **Can someone give me an example of arbitration?** (Example: Two students can't solve an argument alone so they ask a teacher or parent what they should do. The two students agree that they will do what the adult says.) **Can someone give me an example of mediation?** (Example:

Two friends are arguing. A third friend wants the two to get along so the third person helps them listen to each other and solve their problem.)

Which of these three did Jesus do with the disciples? (Arbitration, He made a judgement to settle the argument.) **In this case, the disciples listened to Jesus and stopped arguing. What might happen if you and a friend were arguing and another friend came over and told you what to do?** (You might not want to do what they suggested.) **When two friends are arguing, you can help them settle their arguments but arbitration is not the best choice. How could you help them?** (Mediation, a friend can act as a mediator.)

Here are some rules for Mediation. Write them on the board as you discuss them.

1. **Do not give advice.** (Why don't we give advice? Usually people would rather find their own solution. If you give advice they may not want to do it. It is better to let them work it out themselves.)
2. **Get agreement to talk it over.** (Start by asking if the two are willing to talk it over. Say something like, "Can we talk this over? Where—and when—would be a good time to talk?")
3. **Clarify and summarize both facts and feelings.** (Your role as mediator is to help the two parties listen to each other. Make clarifying and summarizing statements. Make sure both sides get to talk and the other one listens. Acknowledge feelings.)
4. **Help find common ground.** (Look for ways they agree and point it out to them. Maybe they both want to find a peaceful solution or they both want the solution to be fair.)
5. **Help work through the Problem Solving Process** (Ask questions to help them walk through the steps of the problem solving process. Ask, "What is the problem?" and let both sides tell each other what they think the problem is. Take your time with this step. Then encourage brainstorming and choosing a solution.)

Small Group Discussion. Share examples and experiences with these three types of problem solving. Tell about times you have been involved in conflicts or seen others in conflict. How did they solve the problem? Did they use one of these three methods? Tell which type of problem solving was used for each example.