

Lesson 7. 25– The Disciples Argue Part II: Mediation

Topic: Conflict Management

Subtopic: Mediation

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 Review from last week. What is the difference between arbitration, negotiation and mediation?

Bible Story: Review last weeks’ Bible Story. What were the disciples fighting about in last week’s lesson? Which problem solving technique did Jesus use?

Application. Review the rules for Mediation.

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

Have student roleplays of mediation.

Evaluation: Are students using negotiation and mediation when they have conflicts among themselves? Remind them to use these techniques when problems arise among students.

Student Activities

Introduction: Students give the following 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.

Bible Story: *Answers to questions.* The disciples were fighting over who would get the greatest seat of honor. Jesus used arbitration.

Application:

Roleplay mediation with the whole class and then in small groups. Evaluate how well the mediator followed the five rules.

Journal about your roleplay experience.

Evaluation: Are students able to use mediation to solve conflicts. Do they use the five rules to guide their mediation?

Extension Activities: *More Bible Examples.* Look up these passages and decide if the disciples used arbitration, negotiation or mediation to solve each conflict: Acts 9:26-28; Acts 11:1-4,18; Acts 15:36-41; Acts 15:1-2,6-12. *Memory Verse:* Practice writing the verse from memory.

Notes for Teacher

Today's lesson is a continuation of the discussion of mediation. Review last week's story and the rules for mediation. Then students will roleplay being a mediator for an argument.

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

Introduction: Review last week's lesson by asking students to define arbitration, mediation and negotiation.

Bible Story: Review the story from last week. If students don't remember it, have a Reader read it again (Matthew 20:20-28).

- What were the disciples arguing about?
- What did Jesus do? (He called them together and talked to them.)
- Did Jesus use arbitration, negotiation or mediation? (arbitration)
- Why does mediation work better when everyone involved is a student? (Usually we don't want others to tell us what to do. Jesus was in a position of authority—as a teacher is—and therefore the disciples honored what He said; just as students might do what a teacher asks. However, students are less likely to take advice from another student.)

Application: **Review the rules for mediation.** Write them on the board again.

1. **Do not give advice.**
2. **Get agreement to talk it over.**
3. **Clarify and summarize both facts and feelings.**
4. **Help find common ground.**
5. **Help work through the Problem Solving Process**

Today we will have volunteers roleplay this process. Two students will have a disagreement and a third person will act as mediator to solve the problem. (Use one of the scenerios below or a situation your students can relate to.)

Roleplay One. Two sisters have one cell phone and their parents expect them to share it. Rose says she needs it every evening because she is older and she needs to talk to her friends. She says her sister, Ana, can have it during the day. Ana says that is not fair because she is in school all day and can't use the cell phone then. She also wants to have the phone in the evenings. She says she needs to call friends to help her with homework. Help mediate this argument.

Roleplay Two. Gerald is arguing with Seth. Gerald claims that Seth called him a mean name. Seth says Gerald started it by teasing him about how fat he is and when Seth told him to stop, Gerald just teased him more. They are starting to hit each other.

After the roleplays have observers discuss how well the students did at following the five rules for mediators. Then ask students for examples of others things which students might argue about. Write the list on the board.

Small Groups. Have students get into small groups and have them roleplay the situations on the board with two students arguing and a third being the mediator. Rotate roles so everyone gets to be a mediator. When they are done, have them do the journaling assignment.

Journal. Reflect on your experience with roleplaying. What was it like to be the mediator? How well did you follow the rules? Write a reflection about your experience.