

Life Group Guide

1 John 2:3-14

Leader Equipping: A good refresher for this week as we cover verses on loving or hating our brother would be to watch Dave Obwald's conflict Resolution training. We will cover in group discussion some of the reasons it's hard to move toward others and how we can walk in the light in a more Christlike way when it comes to hard relationships.

Watch: [Conflict Resolution Training](#)

Resource: [Conflict Field Guide](#)

Connect: 30-45 mins Connecting.

Consider sharing a meal together, discussing the highs/lows of the week, or any celebrations/hard things that happened last week, follow up from prayer requests or confessions last week.

Discuss: 30-45 mins Scripture/Sermon Discussion

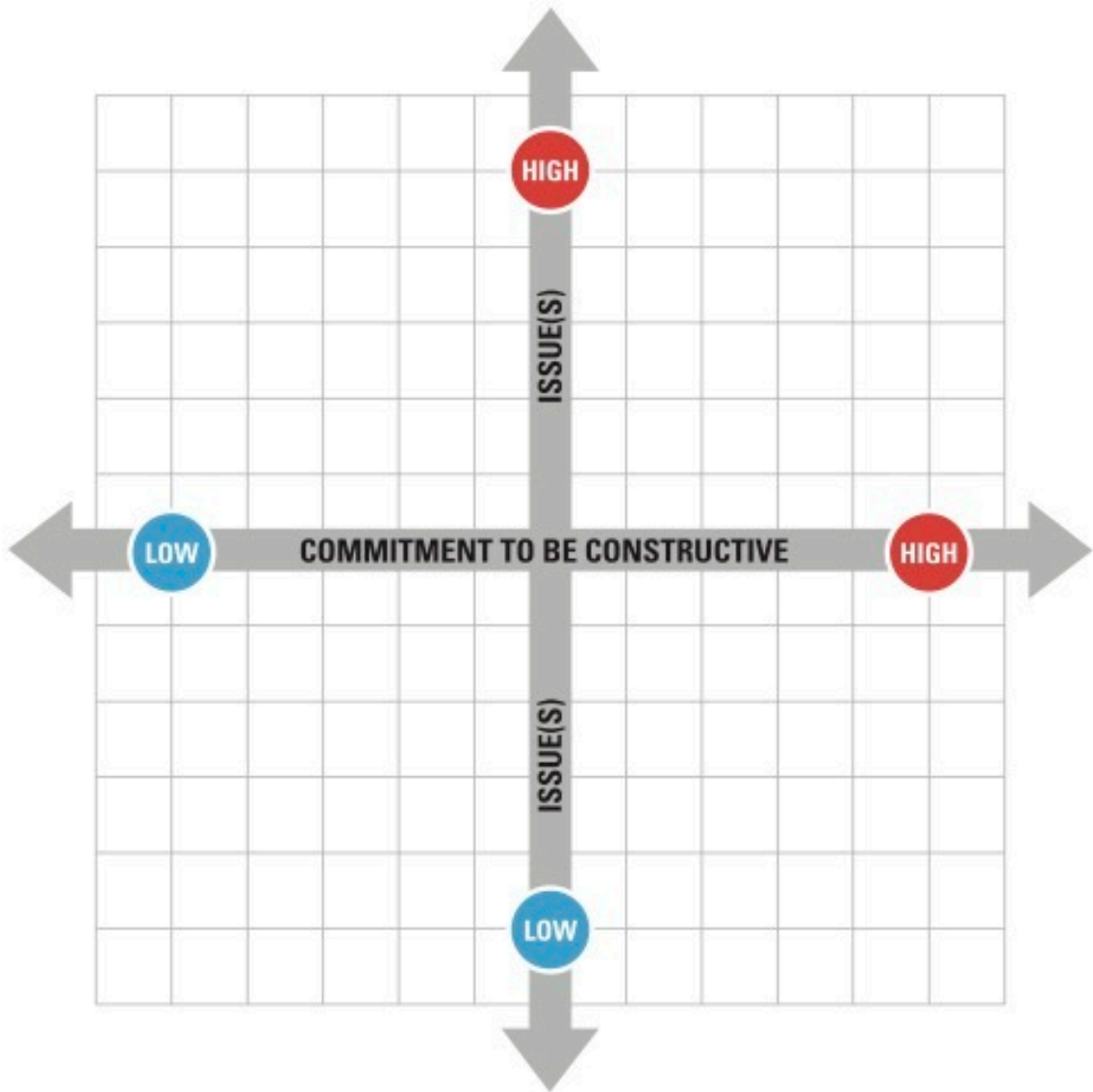
1. Reread this week's passage 1 John 2:3-14. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes.
2. What stood out to you in this week's passage or message? Anything comforting? Challenging? Surprising?
3. As you look at verse 6 "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.", what does it mean to walk like Jesus? In what ways are you hoping to grow to walk more like Him?
4. Have you ever doubted the validity of your faith (that you are saved)? According to the sermon passage, what verifications affirm you have eternal life and therefore, validate your faith?
5. Summarize 1 John 2:9-10. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What does this passage teach us about the posture of our hearts toward others and how that affects our relationship with God?
6. Is there anyone you're in conflict with or struggling to love well right now? What feels hard when you think about moving toward that person? In what ways can you walk in light and love toward that person?

Foundational Practice: Experiencing Ongoing Freedom

Break into groups of 2-3 to pray for what you shared in response to question #5. If there are people you are in conflict with or struggling to love, confess that to God and one another, seek wisdom in prayer with those in your life group.

If time allows and it fits, you can consider watching the Conflict Resolution training from above as a group to resource you.

DIAGRAM OF ISSUES/COMMITMENT TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE



UNMANAGED CONFLICT CYCLE

STAGE I: CONFUSION/ TENSION

1. Blocking caused by: (James 4:1, Matt 15:19)
 - a. Misunderstanding
 - b. Different values
 - c. Competition of resources
 - d. Unmet desires (idols)
2. Issues may seem insignificant, but are beginning to create discomfort.
3. Tendency to avoid saying anything; it's not a big deal.

STAGE V: ADJUSTMENTS

1. Usually in direction of distance, either psychological or physical
2. May include accommodation by the other



STAGE II: ROLE DILEMMA

1. Questions arise inside oneself: "What am I doing to cause this?" "What is s/he doing?" "What's happening here?" (Prov. 18:17)
2. I'm beginning to know who's at fault (YUD)
3. Time overdue to deal with conflict; harder to break cycle.

STAGE IV: CONFRONTATION

1. Usually happens at an unplanned time.
2. Focuses on judging and condemning the other person, not on clarifying main concern or issues.
3. Snowballs are unleashed
4. "Fight" is usually worse than imagined
5. Eph. 4:26 Sinning in your anger

STAGE III: INJUSTICE COLLECTING

1. Collect snowballs for later
2. Convinced that matter can only get worse.
3. Generates a lot of negative energy.
4. Injustices become more important than original confusion
5. Record of wrongs (1 Cor. 13)