**[ 5 ] WEEK FIVE - THREAD: PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

DA 36 Young person seeks to resolve conflict non-violently.

*44% of youth surveyed by Search Institute in the USA have this have this thread of* ***PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION*** *in their lives. [JUNIOR COLLEGE WORDING: Children try to resolve conflicts nonviolently.]*

**KEY TEXT:** Luke 6:37-42 “Judge not”

**BIBLE TEXT:**

*37"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

*39He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

*41"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS:**

What do we learn from this reading?

Jesus leads us to the first step on resolved conflict - that is, to look inward, and to see that I am not "superior" to others. With a deep sense of the equality that we all share under God, Jesus sends each of us to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven. Jesus invites us to learn who God has generously reached out to us, while we were sinful, and brought us near to his heart. Seeing the graciousness of God, we seen to put away our own sinful self-righteousness, and seek to resolve conflicts with those around us. However, we remember that we are not God. Sometimes, we are left with that difficult situation where a conflict is not easily resolved.

**THREAD DISCUSS**

We need to think through the difference between peaceful, non-violent conflict resolution and other forms of conflict resolution. With so many contemporary films including themes of violent vengefulness, we have to consider what images young people have in their storehouse of members, of actual successful non-violent solutions. Most First-Person-Shooter computer games, require repeated violent actions to solve conflict situations.

Young people need strategies. To know how to positively confront people in difficult siuations includes skills that can be learned. Young people can learn how to use "I" statements, rather than agressive accusations. Young people can learn how to debrief conflict situations to consider what works and what doesn't work. Even basic polite language is a strategy that can be used to be peaceful in difficult situations.

In the midst of strategies, it is important to underscore the dramatic changes that the adolescent brain goes through. It takes a lot of energy, support and patience to adopt peaceful conflict resolution strategies, but the ultimate goal is win-win.

**BIBLE QUOTES to talk about ....**

"Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven." — Matthew 18:21-22

"So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. ... Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. — Ephesians 4:25-32

**ACTIVITIES**

\* Devise a strategy to make "Peaceful Conflict Resolution" the "status quo" in your class room.

\* Role Play some conflict resolution strategies. Reflect on the emotions involved.

\* List the outcomes that your group's participants have had, of angry conflict.

\* Search for political heroes, who have been champions of non-violent conflict resolution. Learn about thei strategies and apply those strategies to local situations.

\* Teach the definitions of "passive," "aggressive," and "assertive."

\* List the elements of assertive behaviours.

\* Discuss the "comedians" in the school community and reflect on how comedy can be used to bring about peaceful conflict resolution.

\* Use school resources to show how day to day student conflicts are resolved peacefully.

\* What consequences should the courts hand out for violent behaviour?

**PRAYING:**

*These two weeks we could pray for:*

An end for international conflict;

Peaceful solutions to family issues;

A greater understanding between parties that strongly disagree with each other;

International commitment to ways of peace;

a willingness of people to find ways of peace;

A refusal amongst people to use revenge as a preferred solution to problems.

God's love at work amongst us.

*An example of a prayer for these two weeks:*

God, send your Spirit of peace into our world

that we would turn our swords into ploughshares,

and refuse to use violent solutions.

Leads in the way of peace, for sake of Jesus

who is the Prince of Peace-making.

AMEN