

Lesson 1 - Crush CONFLICT God's Way

Lesson Overview

THE BUZZ

I will crush conflict
God's way!

THE TAKEAWAY

Choose unity over
being "right"!

BIBLE STORY

Paul Writes To The
Philippians

(Phil. 4:1-3; The Book Of Acts)

POWER VERSE

"For I can do everything through
Christ, who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Conflict is something every child will face at some point. Whether it's an argument with a friend, a disagreement with a sibling, or hurt feelings on the playground, kids regularly encounter situations where relationships are strained. The Bible doesn't pretend conflict doesn't exist. In fact, Philippians 4:1-3 shows us that even believers in the early church struggled with disagreements.

In these verses, the apostle Paul addresses two women in the church who were having a conflict. Instead of ignoring the issue, Paul encouraged them to "agree in the Lord." His message reminds us that conflict isn't the real problem — how we handle conflict is what matters.

This lesson will help your children understand that disagreements will happen, but God gives us a better way to deal with them. Instead of trying to win arguments or prove we are right, God calls us to pursue unity and reconciliation. By the end of the lesson, children should walk away with a clear challenge: when conflict appears, they have a choice. They can keep the fight going, or they can follow God's way and choose unity.

When we handle conflict God's way, we protect our friendships and reflect the love of Jesus to others. It's time to *Crush Conflict God's Way!*

Lesson Elements & Supplies

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT?

Intro Video

- 4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - Intro Video (EL).mov

The Buzz

- 4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - The Buzz - Teaching (EL).mov
- 4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - The Buzz - Trigger (EL).mov

Game Time

- 4 X 4 - Game Time (EL).mov
- "Noodle Joust" Graphic
- Two Styrofoam Pool Noodles
- Two Large Hats

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Bible Story

- 4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - Bible Story Video (EL).mov
- or
- Lesson 1 Graphics

The Breakdown

- Lesson 1 Graphics
- Toy 4×4 Truck
- Roll of Duct Tape
- Football

Power Verse

- Power Verse Video

WHAT DO I DO ABOUT IT?

The Takeaway

- Lesson 1 Graphics
- Prayer Music

Lightning Round

- Lightning Round Bumper (EL).mov
- Lesson 1 Graphics
- Lightning Round Music

What Are We Learning About?



Lesson Intro

Hey everybody! I'm so glad you're here today because we are starting a brand new series called "4X4!" Now when you hear the words "4X4," what do you think about? (*allow response*) Yeah! Big trucks! Huge tires! Loud engines! Monster trucks are built to do one thing — *crush* obstacles. They roll right over things that would stop a normal car.

In this series, we're going to learn that life sometimes throws obstacles in our way, too. We run into problems and situations that feel really hard to deal with. But Philippians chapter 4 shows us that God gives us the power and wisdom to crush those obstacles His way. We are learning 4 lessons from Philippians 4 in this series. But first, I want you to check out this video.



INTRO VIDEO

Play: "4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - Intro Video (EL)"

Conflict happens all the time. We get into arguments with friends, our family, and others. In fact, sometimes it feels like people just can't get along!

But here's something important to know: even people in the Bible had conflicts. We are going to learn about one of those, today. But we're going to learn how to *crush* conflict God's way. Because when we follow God's way, God helps us find peace and unity instead of staying in the fight. To learn more about that, let's find out "What's The Buzz?"



THE BUZZ TEACHING

Play: "4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - The Buzz - Teaching (EL)"

That's "The Buzz!" So, now that you know it, you are going to have to be ready to say it a bunch of times. I want you to be able to have it memorized so you can tell everyone what you learned, today.



THE BUZZ TRIGGER

Play: "4 X 4 - Lesson 1 - The Buzz - Trigger (EL)"

Well done! That could happen at any point in the service. So, always be on your toes and ready to stand and shout it out!

Game Time

NOODLE JOUST

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Two styrofoam pool noodles
- Two large hats

PREPARATION

Choose three boys and three girls to play this game.

HOW TO PLAY

Choose one boy and one girl to compete against each other first. Place a hat on each of their heads, making sure it is not tight. Have the players stand about three to four feet apart from one another, facing one another. Give each of the players a pool noodle. Have them each hold the pool noodle in one hand and place the other hand behind their back. When you say, "Go!" the players must use their pool noodle to try to knock the hat off of their opponent's head. The first one to do so is declared the winner of that round. Repeat for two more rounds, allowing the other players from each team to compete against each other.

HOW TO WIN

After three rounds, the team that wins the best two out of three is the winner!

What Does The Bible Say?



Bible Story

Today, we are talking about how to crush conflict God's way. We have learned "The Buzz" and now it is time to ask: "What Does The Bible Say?" I think now would be a good time to find out.

→ Show Lesson 1 - Bible Story Video (EL).mov **OR** teach it live using the script below and the provided Bible Story graphics (listed below).

PAUL WRITES TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Hey, friends! It's time for an amazing Bible Story. Today's story is about the Apostle Paul. *(show Lesson 1 – 1)* After Paul became a Christian, everything in his life changed. The man who once tried to stop Christians was now preaching about Jesus. He learned from the apostles. He grew in his faith, studied the Scriptures and, before long, Paul began traveling from city to city telling people about Jesus. Paul wasn't afraid of hard work or danger. His mission was simple: start churches and help people follow Jesus' teachings.

(show Lesson 1 – 2) One of the cities Paul traveled to was called Philippi. It was a Roman colony filled with people who didn't know Jesus yet. Paul met a woman named Lydia by the river, and she became one of the first believers there. Soon, others believed, too, and a church was born.

(show Lesson 1 – 3) Philippi became very special to Paul. He loved those people. That church brought him joy. But Paul couldn't stay with them forever. There were other places that needed to hear about Jesus. Paul traveled to other cities, planting more churches, but years later, things looked different. *(show Lesson 1 – 4)* Two women in the church — Euodia and Syntyche — were in a big disagreement. We don't know exactly what the argument was about, but we do know is that it was serious and affected the church in Philippi enough that it needed to be addressed.

Paul heard about the things going wrong in Philippi. The church that once brought him so much joy was now dealing with a huge conflict. When conflict isn't handled God's way, it spreads, and it affects everybody - even the church.

(show Lesson 1 – 5) Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians. In it, Paul addressed the problem. He wrote, "I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement."

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Bible Story (Continued)

He didn't say, "Win the argument." He didn't say, "Prove you're right." He didn't say, "Just ignore each other." He said, "Agree in the Lord," because belonging to Jesus changes how we handle conflict.

Paul knew something important: Conflict is going to happen. People will disagree, feelings will get hurt, but followers of Jesus must choose to solve conflict differently. When we belong to the Lord, we don't let conflict control us. We choose to crush conflict God's way!



The Breakdown

Materials Needed:

Lesson 1 - Breakdown Graphics; roll of duct tape; a toy 4X4 truck; a football

Preparation:

None necessary

In our Bible Story, we learned that even people in the early church had disagreements. The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi, and in Philippians 4:2 he actually mentioned two people by name who were having a conflict. *(show Philippians 4:2 graphic)* He wrote, "Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement." That tells us something important right away...

Conflict happens - Even in church *(show Point - 1)*

Sometimes people think that if you follow Jesus, you'll never have disagreements. But the Bible shows us that's not true. Even people in church can have arguments sometimes. Jesus also talked about this in Matthew 18:15. *(show Matt. 18:15 graphic)* He said, "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense." Jesus didn't say conflicts never happen. Instead, He showed us how to deal with them in the right way.

To help us see how conflict works, imagine this. *(hold up the toy monster truck, then place it on the ground so it can roll)* This truck represents you. You are meant to go place and do big things for God. You are supposed to help build the church, tell others about Jesus, and show people God's love. *(hold up the roll of duct tape)* This is going to represent conflict. We just admitted that conflicts happen - even in church. BUT, that doesn't mean that conflicts don't affect us. *(tear off a piece of duct tape)* Even though we might think, "It's just a small disagreement. It's just a small argument." *(place the duct tape over one of the wheels, rendering it unable to roll)* Even "small" conflicts can keep us from doing what God called us to do. They cause us to get stuck! We can't go anywhere because we are fighting each other. Sometimes our lives are the same way when people argue. Nobody moves forward. Everybody just stays stuck in the fight. But God doesn't want us to stay stuck in conflict...

We're all on the same team *(show Point - 2)*

The apostle Paul reminded the people in Philippi that they were supposed to work together, not against each other. Even though Euodia and Syntyche had a disagreement, Paul told them to "agree in the Lord." In other words, remember that they were both followers of Jesus. They were on the same team.

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The Breakdown (Continued)

(show Romans 12:5 graphic) Romans 12:5 says, "We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." That means when we follow Jesus, we are part of God's family. We aren't supposed to treat each other like enemies.

Think of it this way. (hold up the football) How many of you like football? (allow response) Now, imagine two players on the same team arguing during the game. Instead of working together to win, they start fighting with each other. Or, even worse, when one person on the team gets the ball, one of their teammates actually tackles them. What in the world? You aren't supposed to tackle the people on *your* team. Well, if that were to happen, how would that affect the team? (allow response) Of course! The whole team struggles! But when everyone works together, the team becomes strong.

That's how it works in God's family, too. We are stronger when we choose unity instead of trying to win arguments with one another. The Bible is clear: we may have disagreements and conflicts with others, but we can't allow ourselves to get caught up in trying to prove we are "right." We must learn to *crush* conflict God's way!



Power Verse

→ There is one power verse for the entire series. It is introduced here, in Lesson 1. Play "Lesson 1 - Power Verse.mov." There is also a Power Verse graphic provided for you to use. For all of the following weeks, you can show the graphic to remind the kids of the verse in any of the creative ways we suggest in the "Service Elements" section of this manual. Encourage the children to memorize the verse for the series.

What Do I Do About It?

!! The Takeaway

Materials Needed:

Lesson 1 - Takeaway Graphics; one of the Prayer Music tracks

Have the Prayer Music playing the entire time you are sharing this section, leading into the prayer

So what do we do with everything we just learned? What should we do the next time conflict shows up in our lives? The next time someone hurts our feelings and we want to fight and argue with them to prove we are "right", what do we do about it?

The Bible gives us a clear answer. Instead of focusing on winning the argument or proving that we are right, God wants us to choose unity. In Philippians 4:2, Paul urged the two people who were arguing to "agree in the Lord." That means they needed to remember something bigger than their disagreement — they both belonged to Jesus. So, in order to crush conflict God's way...

Choose unity over being "right" (show image)

Sometimes when we argue, our main goal becomes proving that we are right. We want the other person to admit they were wrong. We want to win the fight. But when we focus on winning the argument, we often lose the relationship. God's way is different. God wants us to protect the relationship first. That means being willing to forgive, being willing to listen, and sometimes even being willing to let go of being "right" so that peace can grow again.

So the next time you feel an argument starting with a friend, a brother, a sister, or someone at school, remember what God's Word says. Don't focus on winning the fight. Focus on making things right. Choose unity over being right, and you will be crushing conflict God's way!

Optional Prayer:

*"God, thank You for loving us and forgiving us. Help us follow Your example when conflict happens in our lives. Give us the courage to forgive others, the humility to say we're sorry when we need to, and the wisdom to choose unity instead of trying to prove we're right. Help us be peacemakers who bring people together.
In Jesus' name, Amen!"*



Lightning Round

Materials Needed:

*Lightning Round Bumper.mov; Lightning Round - Background Music.mp3;
Lesson 1 - Lightning Round Graphics*

Preparation:

Play the "Lightning Round" Bumper Video; Begin with the title slide; there is a slide for each question and answer

1. What's The Buzz, today?
Answer: *I will crush conflict God's way!*
2. Who was the apostle in our Bible Story?
Answer: *Paul*
3. What did Paul do before he followed Jesus?
Answer: *Hurt Christians*
4. Did Paul love the church in Philippi?
Answer: *Yes*
5. What was going on with Euodia and Syntyche?
Answer: *They Were Fighting*
6. Did Paul want them to continue fighting?
Answer: *No*
7. According to The Breakdown, "Conflict happens - Even in _____."
Answer: *Church*
8. According to The Breakdown, "We're all on the same _____."
Answer: *Team*
9. The Takeaway today says, "Choose _____ over being 'right.'"
Answer: *Unity*
10. Where was our Power Verse found?
Answer: *Philippians 4:13*