

# GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

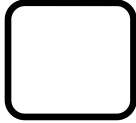
*Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

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## Matthew 18:15-20

### Theme: Better Together—Even When Sin Divides Us

1. Begin your time together sharing highs and lows from the past week and praying for each other.
2. This week Jesus addresses the topic of confrontation. What kinds of thoughts, feelings or experiences do you have with initiating confrontation or being on the receiving end of confrontation?
3. Do you know the account of Jonah? (Read Jonah chapter 1 if you need a refresher.) Describe Jonah's style of confrontation in this chapter.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 3. Describe Paul's style of confrontation. Are you typically more like Paul or Jonah?
5. Read Genesis 4:1-16 (focus on v. 8-15). Describe God's style of confrontation. Whose way would you most prefer to be confronted by - Jonah (Jonah 1), Paul (1 Corinthians 3), or God (Genesis 4)? Why?
6. Read Matthew 18:15-20. Share the important lessons about confrontation that speak most strongly to your heart right now and why.
7. Wrap up your time together in small groups of 2-3 discussing a person you feel God may be putting on your heart to confront. Talk briefly about potential dangers for yourself and for the other individual. Pray for each other that God guides you to confront in love and humility.



## NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

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# Better Together Even When Sin Divides Us

Matthew 18:15-20

*“If your brother or sisters sins, go and point out their fault.”*

### Addressing the Challenges.

The Christian chooses to s\_\_\_\_\_ him/herself to God’s will and therefore welcomes correction.

We are always guided by the moral standards clearly revealed in God’s W\_\_\_\_\_.

God alone has authority to j\_\_\_\_\_. We act on his behalf.

Confrontation is not a choice. It’s a c\_\_\_\_\_.

### Focusing on the Goal

When confronting we are seeking to t\_\_\_\_\_ up.

The motivation is pure and genuine l\_\_\_\_\_.

The ultimate goal is for faith to be str\_\_\_\_\_ thened.

### Exposing the Dangers.

Recognize the sinful motivations that seek to take control: anger, pride, jealousy, revenge, and an unwillingness to forgive.

Don’t lose sight of the goal: the individual’s physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal wellbeing.

Be p\_\_\_\_\_; wait on the Holy Spirit’s timeline.

R\_\_\_\_\_tionship always needs to precede and motivate confrontation.

*Always remember, no matter where you are at or where the other person is at, Jesus is the answer.*

### Next Steps

- **Soul-searching.** Last week we talked about “me” getting in the way of “we.” That concept also applies to Jesus’ command to confronting sin in others. Spend some time prayerfully thinking about the ways that your sinful nature becomes a barrier to this important work. Confess those sins to Jesus and take hold of his forgiveness
- **Invest in relationships.** You cannot be a spiritual mentor unless you invest the time to develop meaningful relationships with other Christians. Who can you invest in this week? Consider looking into becoming a member of a Christian life group.
- **Pray for strength, wisdom, and guidance.** As the message pointed out, there are many challenges and dangers inherent in Jesus command to address sin in the lives of Christian brothers and sisters. At the same time, it is a command from our Savior. Include a request for opportunities and guidance in your daily prayers.