

BREAKING BARRIERS



This work is a compilation of Dr. Rhedrick's research.

Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture references are from the New International Version (NIV)

SESSION II

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

PREFACE

BREAKING BARRIERS

Today we live in a world that is both convenient and complicated. It's a world where we can insure our lives against almost any casualties, yet we still live in fear. It's a world with all the advances in technology that can forecast storms and stock market trends, yet we still worry about the future. It's a world that has AI and video communication, yet we still feel lonely. Unfortunately, these barriers are not new. They have been a weapon used against humanity for thousands of years. So, how do we to navigate these and other barriers?

These barriers keep us from becoming all God wants us to be and to do the things He desires us to do. Therefore, this series will address the biblical approaches utilized to breakthrough these barriers.

So, how will we address ancient foes? We must learn how to have an attitude of victory before the battle begins. However, this attitude cannot be developed using our own abilities or even modern-day technology or resources.

We will rely on the time-tested resource, which guides us on how to breakthrough these barriers, the Bible. This position is not taken lightly, because one's point of reference for truth and authority is what guides one's perspective, purpose and priorities. However, for this study, the Bible will be this absolute authority.

The Bible has been chosen as this point of reference based on its proven accuracy for truth, its verifiable authority of truth, and its undeniable authority for truth. Upon completion of this study, it is the researcher's hope that you will be empowered to breakthrough any barriers you are facing now and any that will arise in the future.



LESSON I – BREAKING THE CONFLICT BARRIER

The closer you draw to a person in a relationship, the greater chance there will be disagreement. When this happens, we often feel pulled and/or pushed in opposing directions. From time to time, these disagreements can lead to hurt feelings, tension, backbiting, and all-out opposition. If you're not prepared, these situations will blindsides you, and your heart's vileness will only fuel the eruption. Conflict is inevitable. No relationship is immune. However, when managed biblically, conflict can be an opportunity for spiritual and relational growth.

BREAKTHROUGH #1:

Conflict can serve as a _____ for _____.

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| Jesus said little about how we should resolve interpersonal conflict. | True | False |
| A willingness to forgive is a test of whether you will go to heaven or not. | True | False |
| Good people get to the bottom of all their disagreements. | True | False |
| Part of resolving conflict is forgiveness. | True | False |

INSIGHT INTO YOUR VISION AND THE WORLD'S



How many of us avoid difficult conversations with friends or family members or co-workers or employers? _____

Why are many people afraid to resolve conflict in their lives? _____

How do you go about telling people they have hurt you? _____

Today, we're going to learn ***How to Deal with Conflict***, based on Matthew 18:15-17.

EXPLORING WHAT GOD SEES



Conflict can be both constructive and destructive. Unfortunately, many of us, who say we are believers, have not yet developed our ability to respond to conflict in a gospel-centered and biblically faithful manner. But God created us for relationships. Therefore, do not let unresolved conflict rob you of the joy that healthy relationships will bring. Hopefully, after this lesson, you will have the tools to make this change in your life and in your families.

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ "If your party or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹

¹⁵ "If your party or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

What did Jesus say do first to resolve conflict? _____

How are we supposed to approach the offended party? _____

What should be your disposition? _____

¹ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 18:15–17.

What positive consequences can result from following step one? _____

BREAKTHROUGH #2:

Biblical conflict resolution require us to be _____.

¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

What should we do if a person will not listen to us and does not want to work things out? _____

BREAKTHROUGH #3:

**We are to be _____ in reconciliation
not _____.**

' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

When did Jesus say that personal offenses are to be taken before the church and made public? _____

What extreme measures should be used if the offending party turns a deaf ear to all pleas to reconcile? _____

BREAKTHROUGH #4:

We are to remember that the relationship

is more _____ than the _____.

TABLE TALK BREAKTHROUGHS:

Based on the passage we just studied, discuss the following questions and determine how you can break through the Conflict Barrier.

Why is it best to resolve conflicts in private? _____

How can a third-party help resolve a conflict? How can they make it worst? _____

How can gossip cause more problems than solution when trying to resolve a conflict? _____

What biblical principles can you practice based on this lesson? _____

THE BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE



In what relationship do you need to apply these principles? _____

How should we apply this reality in our lives? _____

What spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, meditation on Scripture, etc.) could you practice this week to improve your eyesight from your worldly view to God's view? _____

Who might you share your new Barrier Breaking view with this week? _____

BOTTOM LINE:

**Believers must not _____ other Believers
as _____.**

NEXT WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT:

Read the next session lesson and answer as many of the questions as you can before class. Pray for your class partners and table mates that they will have a Breakthrough. If you are a Twitter follower – respond to the daily weekday post @HerbRhedrick.

CLOSING PRAYER