

**The WayPoint: Short Accounts Grow Long-Term Relationships.**

**Essential Verse:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22

**Opening Prayer:** Use this prayer or open with a prayer of your own.  
*Lord, we love You, and we thank You for this group You have brought together. Help each of us to grow in our relationship with You and with one another. We ask You to guide our time together and to help us see our need for Jesus every day. Amen.*

**Get Conversation Started:**

*What stood out to you from your Bible reading and the weekend message this past week?*

*Share a time that you allowed your emotions to escalate. What was the outcome of that situation?*

**Defining Terms:**

**Anger** - The feeling of extreme displeasure, hostility, antagonism or hatred towards someone or something.

**Murder** - To destroy, kill, or put to an end.

**Meekness** - Personality trait of gentleness and humility, the opposite of which is pride. Meekness is strength, or power, under control.

**Bible Study Focus:**

*Focus on the following passages from the Reading Plan. Ask for volunteers to read the passages, while the rest of the group follows along. Then, discuss the biblical truths below.*

**Read Matthew 5:21-27** *How are negative thoughts about another person just as displeasing to God as physically harming them?*

*How does unresolved conflict affect our worship and our relationships with God?*

**Read Matthew 18:15-20** *What steps does Jesus give for resolving conflict and how would consistently following these steps improve our relationships?*

*What are the advantages of dealing with conflict face to face, rather than through text or email?*

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**Read Ephesians 4:26-32** *Why is it so important to deal with our anger and conflicts as quickly as possible?*

*If we “give the devil a foothold” in our anger, what damaging ripple effect might occur to individuals not directly involved in our conflict?*

*Have you ever put off reconciling with someone? What happened?*

**Your Concerns:**

*What are your biggest concerns for the week ahead?*

**God Moments:**

*Where have you seen God at work in, through, or around you in the previous week?*

**Prayer:**

Lift up the concerns shared, and ask God to guide us to follow, love, and serve Him and others, so He may be praised in all things.