

Getting Along With Siblings

"Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another."—Colossians 3:13.

How to resolve conflicts is an important skill to learn, and in the family is a good place to start. Use the questions below to identify, analyze, and resolve a conflict you have with a sibling.



IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

Which sibling do you find it most difficult to get along with?

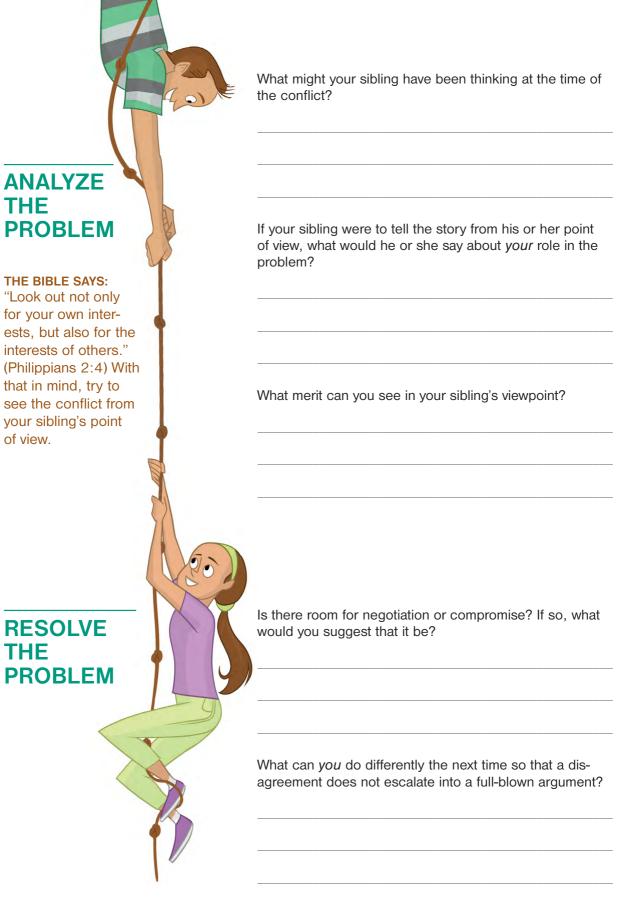
What issue is most likely to provoke a conflict with that sibling?

How does the conflict usually develop?

My sibling will . . . (describe the action)

which causes me to . . . (describe your reaction)

which leads to . . . (describe the consequence)





BIBLE PRINCIPLE LIST

Which principles from the list below could you apply the next time you have a similar conflict?

- "Love one another intensely from the heart."-1 Peter 1:22.
- "Let your reasonableness become known."-Philippians 4:5.
- "Do not be quick to take offense, for the taking of offense is the mark of a fool."-Ecclesiastes 7:9, footnote.
- "Beginning a fight is like opening a floodgate; before the quarrel breaks out, take your leave."-Proverbs 17:14.
- "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out, and where there is no slanderer, quarreling ceases."-Proverbs 26:20.
- "Why . . . do you look at the straw in your brother's eye but do not notice the rafter in your own eye?"-Matthew 7:3.

Finally, write down one thing you appreciate or admire about your sibling.

WHAT **WOULD** YOU DO?

THE BIBLE SAYS: "Thoughtless speech is like the stabs of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is a healing."-Proverbs 12:18.

"When my dad was in the hospital for an extended period of time, it was hard for me to visit him because I couldn't drive. I told my brother I wanted to get a driver's license, but he said he didn't have time to teach me how to drive. Even when I explained why I needed it, he ignored me and almost dismissed my problem. I threw a fit, telling my brother that he didn't care that I didn't get to see my dad and that he never thinks of how I feel. That really upset him. We were both yelling at each other, saying how we each thought the other one was being inconsiderate."-Karina.

If you were Karina, how would you have resolved this situation?

WHAT KARINA DID: "The next morning, my brother and I had a good talk. He apologized for getting so upset and told me about all the pressure he was under. I didn't know how much he had on his plate. Once he told me how he was really feeling, I apologized for trying to put even more on his plate. I know that I had the best of intentions, but it wasn't the right time to bring it up."

