**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Take a Break and Talk**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Acts 15:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac15.1-20).

**Consider**

When we hear lies being told, we should want to passionately defend the truth like Paul and Barnabas. They strongly disagreed with these other men, but they couldn’t resolve the situation for the whole group on their own. So, they sought the counsel of church leadership.

In our times of passionate arguing, we must remember that seeking counsel is a wise thing to do. Seeking counsel from others helps us to avoid being led only by our emotions. Paul and Barnabas were willing to travel to Jerusalem to resolve the conflict. Like them, when we face challenges, we may need to lay aside our pride and allow others to speak about the situation.

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| **QUESTION**What is your first response when you encounter conflict? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever made a conflict with someone a lot more difficult because of your first response? |

**Reflect**

Reflect on the times that you have navigated challenges. Resolving them alone doesn’t always work, so reaching out to others for counsel can bring wisdom. It also helps to remember not to respond out of emotion and to pause and take a break as needed. During that time, talk the situation out with someone else and get wise, godly counsel on how to respond.

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| **QUESTION**Would others say you respond with emotion or calmness first? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some practical things you can do when you encounter a conflict or challenge? |

**Activate**

Write down how you currently handle disagreements and how you want to handle them. Take the example from the Scripture you read to get practical ways to handle these challenges.

**Pray**

God, thank You that even when challenges come our way, You have already shown us how to handle them. You give us grace and mercy for those times when we must handle conflict. Thank You for loving us even when we don’t deserve it. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Safety in Wise Leaders**

**Engage**

Read [Proverbs 11:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr11.14).

**Consider**

This is a short verse with a lot of punch to it. Anyone can try to be a leader, someone who influences others, and they can do it either positively or negatively. So, that means not every leader is a *wise* leader. Wisdom for good leadership comes from God, and there’s some safety in surrounding yourself with wise leaders.

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| **QUESTION**What does this verse say happens when nations lack good leaders? |

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| **QUESTION**Who are some good leaders you can rely on? |

**Reflect**

When challenges come your way, you want to be able to look toward wise leaders who make you feel safe. They are there to help you in making the best decisions. Look closely at who you seek advice from. They will influence how you make decisions, and you want to be sure their counsel leads in the direction that God has for you.

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| **QUESTION**How does this verse speak to you? |

**Activate**

Compare and contrast the people you seek counsel from. Consider where you may need to add or change who you listen to in challenging moments.

**Pray**

God, thank You that Your Word shows me what kind of leaders I should be following. Thank You that You provide me with people to seek help and advice from. Speak to me and help me to be a wise leader for others too. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: Everything Is Going Wrong**

**Engage**

Read [Proverbs 15:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr15.22).

**Consider**

There are moments in our life when we feel like nothing is going our way. Everything feels hard or like it’s going wrong. We have a hard time making decisions. We look around, and it feels as if everyone else is getting the best from God, but we’re just barely making it.

Sometimes the simple solution to situations like these is seeking direction from leadership before you start making decisions. Ask for their counsel when making big decisions or even about how to handle a situation. Remember, godly leaders strive to hear from God, so God can use them to help you make a decision that will honor Him.

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| **QUESTION**Do you find that you usually make decisions alone or do you seek advice from others? |

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| **QUESTION**What is your process for making decisions? How does it involve others? |

**Reflect**

Success is found when we seek out those advisers God has placed in our life. The process of decision-making and even overcoming challenges starts with allowing wise leaders to be involved. They may see things from a different angle than what you may be able to see. Sometimes our emotions give us tunnel vision. So, trust your leaders and seek them for advice.

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| **QUESTION**How might getting advice before a decision be better than getting help after? |

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| **QUESTION**What is God speaking to you through this verse? |

**Activate**

Let this verse be one you mediate on, so each time you have to make a decision or handle a hard situation, you will remember what to do.

**Pray**

God, Your Word tells me how to have success. Help me to lay down my pride when I don’t want to seek counsel from my leaders. Help me to be vulnerable and honest with them. I want what You have for me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 4: Stay Calm**

**Engage**

Read [James 1:19–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.19-20).

**Consider**

When you’re faced with conflict, it can be easy to lose your temper. This seems even more true when you know you’re right about the issue. But out of control anger can move from a small disagreement to a lost relationship. These verses offer some great wisdom to help with that. Being quick to listen and slow to speak ensures that you really understand what is being said and are careful in your response. And controlling your anger helps you respond the way God wants. Keeping calm is also key to knowing when you can fix a situation or are in need of help.

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| **QUESTION**What attributes from these verses do you feel you struggle with the most? |

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| **QUESTION**Which areas do you feel you are doing well in? |

**Reflect**

People with quick tempers often get bad reputations. It’s usually because they’re more likely to be harsh and make hurtful decisions. This is the opposite of what a follower of Jesus is supposed to be. That doesn’t mean we never fail at keeping our temper in check. But it does mean that being in control of our anger is a goal God wants for us.

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| **QUESTION**Do you remember a time that you lost your temper? Thinking back on that time, what could you have done differently? |

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| **QUESTION**How could going to a trusted leader help in situations when you feel your anger may get out of control? |

**Activate**

Get a note card, sticky note, or a small piece of paper and write down the last part of [James 1:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.19): “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” Place it in your locker, on your dresser, or somewhere you will see it often. Use this note to help you commit these three rules to memory.

**Pray**

God, thank You for helping me realize that You want me to stay in control of my anger. I’m sorry for the times that I let it lead me to hurt others. Help me to become a person in control of this emotion so I can be an example of a good follower of Jesus. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 5: The Gifts**

**Engage**

Read [Ephesians 4:11–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph4.11-13).

**Consider**

God gave the Church gifts through people. You are part of the Church, so these are gifts to you, too. These leadership responsibilities include equipping you to do God’s work. Equipping can come in many forms. It could be teaching you how to navigate those challenging situations. It can be helping you to resolve differences. Sometimes, we view our leaders more like people who only want to tell us what to do. But God gifted us with these leaders for our benefit.

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| **QUESTION**How does it make you feel that God gave your pastor to you as a gift? |

**Reflect**

When God gives you a gift, He wants you to steward it well. Gifts aren’t meant to be left unused on a shelf. God wants you to use every gift He provides for you. Your leaders are there to guide you, protect you, and help you navigate hard things. They are also there to realign you when things get a little off-centered. Learn to view your leaders as gifts.

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| **QUESTION**How have you been stewarding God’s gift of your leaders well? |

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| **QUESTION**What’s something new that you learned from these verses? |

**Activate**

Appreciate your leaders by buying them a coffee, making something for them, or telling them that you are grateful that God gifted them to you.

**Pray**

God, thank You for the gift of leaders in my life. Help me to continue to honor them and love them well. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.