



BIG IDEA

Big Idea: Great friends call one another UP, not OUT.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Have you ever had a friend who should have confronted you about something harmful you were doing and didn't? How did this make you feel in the end?

Read Philemon 1:8-25. Do you believe that Paul was calling Philemon OUT or UP? Support your answer.

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a strained relationship between two people you care for? What can you learn from Paul's example?

How does Paul exemplify the balance between authority and diplomacy in this passage?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Do you tend to call your friends out or do you call them up? How can you tell?

Do you really believe that conflict has the potential to strengthen relationships? Why or why not?

Have you ever had a confrontation conclude where you felt better after? Explain.

Which player in this story do you identify with most? Why?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

What positional roles might you need to step out of in order to better engage your friends in conflict?

Re-read Philemon 1:17-19. What price might you have to pay in order to see conflict resolved in a healthy, godly way?

Is there a strained relationship you need to reconcile? How can your group support you in your efforts?

Read Colossians 4:7-9. Talk about the process that Onesimus went through (he went from a slave to a "faithful, dear brother"). What hope does this give you for the future of your strained relationships?

