

## **Message Series: Fight Club**

### **Message Title: We need to talk about fight club**

#### **Key Scripture:**

Matthew 18:15–22

#### **Message Summary**

In Matthew 18 Jesus sets out how we handle conflict when it occurs – but he also underlines the point, if we can be harmony then we can shift the spiritual atmosphere, and bring His presence down to earth. How we handle offence and conflict between us is a key indicator of how mature we are as christians, and a key element in living in a thriving spiritual atmosphere – and so – we need to talk about fight club.

#### **How does applying this message affect our:**

##### **Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people**

*What is our preferred conflict style? What conflict styles did we watch as we were growing up? How can we help each other to embrace healthy conflict?*

##### **Discipleship – growing in Christ both in thought and action**

*In Matthew 18 – Jesus tells us the goal of confronting one another is to 'win' each other, how easy do we find it to be humble and not try to prove our point when we are in conflict? Are we always trying to win the relationship and strengthen it, or do we sometimes act out of hurt pride? How do we know the difference?*

##### **Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities**

*In 2 Corinthians – Paul describes us as having the ministry of reconciliation – what do you have in your personality and character that is an asset when it comes to dealing with conflict? Are you assertive, are you calm, are you kind, are you humble? You will have elements of your nature that God has given you that you can use to deal well with conflict*

##### **Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers**

*Have a look at Coventry Cathedrals website on their ministry of reconciliation*

*<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/reconciliation-ministry>*

*There are some great stories that inspire us to deal with conflict and hurt in a way that points people to Jesus!*

##### **Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis**

*Jesus said when two or three are gathered together, I am there – do we feel the presence of Christ with us when we meet as a group or a team? If not, are there issues that we need to address, or relationships that we need to deepen so that we can be in harmony and unity with one another?*