

CHURCH CONFLICT RESOLUTION

“BUILDING UNITY IN FAITH”

Instructions how to study the book **Church Conflict Resolution: “Building Unity in Faith”** written by Dr. Larry D. Andrews, especially with its accompanying Study Guide to your advantage. You must first understand it’s about moving beyond passive reading to active engagement and application. The best approach to receiving the maximum benefit is to remain focused on the **Goals: To experience healing, growth, and transformation** and **Objectives: Through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit during individual or group study.**

INDIVIDUAL STUDY

I. **Read Actively, Not Just Passively:**

- i. **Highlight and Annotate:** Underline key sentences, circle new terms, write notes, questions, and personal reflections in the margins.
- ii. **Summarize Sections:** After each chapter or major section, pause and briefly summarize the main points in your own words. This helps with retention.
- iii. **Look Up References:** Since it’s a biblical-foundation book, keep your Bible handy. Look up every Scripture reference. Read the verses in context, and meditate on them.
- iv. **Identify Your “A-ha!” Moments:** What insights that resonate deeply with you? What challenges your current thinking? Write them down.

II. **Engage Deeply with the Study Guide:**

- i. **Don’t Skip Questions:** The study guide isn’t just for review; it’s designed for application. Answer every question thoughtfully, even if it feels difficult.
- ii. **Personalize the Questions:** When the study guide ask about a conflict, think of a specific situation (*past or present*) where you could apply the biblical principles. This makes learning concrete.
- iii. **Write Down Your Answers:** Don’t just think through them. The act of writing forces clarity and helps solidify your understanding and commitment.
- iv. **Go Beyond the Obvious:** If a question seems simple, push yourself for a deeper answer. How does this apply to the most challenging people or situations you face?

III. **Reflection and Self-Examination:**

- i. **Pray Through It:** Before, during, and after your study sessions. When you are fully present in your moment of study, the Holy Spirit will meet you. Therefore, pray for wisdom, discernment, and the humility to see your own role in conflicts. Ask God to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you need to grow.
- ii. **Identify Your Triggers:** What types of conflicts or behaviors tend to trigger negative reactions in you? How can the biblical principles in the book help you respond differently?
- iii. **Assess Your Role:** Conflict is rarely one-sided. Use the spiritual insights in the book to honestly evaluate your own contributions to past or current conflicts. How could you have behaved differently or displayed a better attitude?

IV. **Practical Application and Exercises:**

- i. **Choose One Principle to Practice:** Do not try to do everything at once. Select one specific strategy or principle from each chapter and actively look for opportunities to apply it in your daily interactions (*at home, church, work, etc.*).
- ii. **Journal Your Experiences:** After applying a biblical principle, write about what you experienced. What went well? What was challenging? What did you learn? This type of feedback loop is crucial for spiritual growth.
- iii. **Practice Active Listening:** This is a common theme in conflict resolution. Consciously practice listening to understand, not just to respond in your conversations.

GROUP STUDY

(Highly Recommended for this Topic)

I. **Commitment to the Process:**

- i. **Regular meetings:** Consistency is key. Schedule regular times to meet and remain faithful.
- ii. **Do the Homework:** Everyone should read the assigned chapters and complete the study guide questions before the group meets. This promotes a rich group discussion.

II. Foster a Safe and Open Environment:

- i. Confidentiality:** Emphasize and commit to strict confidentiality. The group needs to feel safe sharing real-life experiences without fear of gossip or judgment.
- ii. Grace and Non-Judgment:** Remind everyone that the goal is growth and learning, rather than fault-finding. Encourage grace, especially when discussing past mistakes.
- iii. Active Listening (*Again*):** Encourage group members to truly listen to each other's perspectives and experiences without interrupting or planning their own response.

III. Facilitate, Teach Don't Preach:

- i. Lead with Questions:** The facilitator's role is to guide discussions using the study guide questions and probing deeper where or when appropriate. Avoid lecturing or dominating the conversation.
- ii. Encourage Diverse Perspectives:** Recognize that different people will interpret the biblical principles and apply them differently based on their experiences.
- iii. Share Real-Life Examples (*Appropriately*):** Encourage members to share how they have intentionally applied the biblical principles to specific conflict situations while maintaining confidentiality rather than gossip about others that are not present.
- iv. Focus on Application:** Beyond understanding the biblical concepts, repeatedly ask: "How can we apply this?" and "What will we do differently this week?"

IV. Accountability and Support:

- i. Pray Together:** Pray for each other, for specific conflict situations, and for God's wisdom.
- ii. Check-Ins:** At the beginning of each session, consider a brief check-in: "How did applying the biblical principles work for you?"
- iii. Mutual Encouragement:** Celebrate small victories and offer support when someone struggles. Conflict resolution is challenging work.

By combining individual reflections with the power of prayer, group discussions, and actively seeking how to apply the biblical principles into your life daily; you will gain a deeper understanding, experience healing, growth, and internal transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit; and receive the maximum benefit of "Church Conflict Resolution: Building Unity in Faith" – Book and Study Guide.