

Quarrels

Biblical Material: Proverbs 17.14

'The start of a quarrel is like the first crack in a dam; stop it before it develops into a fight.'

You will need:

- Paper and scissors.
- Sticky-Tack (reusable adhesive).
- A bicycle (optional).
- A thick felt-tipped pen.

Introduction

Demonstrate riding the bike and putting on the brakes, or ask a pupil to do so if there is space to do this safely. Ask pupils how the brakes work and why we need them. Talk about the way quarrels start. Pupils can make a few speech bubbles and suggest some of the things people say which start quarrels.



Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Fights are not inevitable. They can be stopped: people can 'put the brakes on.' Not all arguments are bad. Sometimes it is right to have a disagreement, it stops the other person treating you or others badly. This proverb is not talking about those occasions but when quarrels move into violence.

Human beings don't come equipped with brakes in quite the same way as a bike. Ask the pupils for suggestions concerning what we could use as 'brakes' in a quarrel. They should remember that a brake is just something that stops the movement. What can people do to stop a quarrel moving into a fight?

- You can walk away. Remove yourself from the situation.
- Change the subject and think/talk about something else.

- Distract yourself. Do something to take your mind off it.
- Ask God for help.

It is hard to put the brakes on speech and action. Christians find this as hard as anyone else. It takes a life-time to learn.

Prayer/Reflection

Ask pupils to think about times when quarrels have grown into fights while a short piece of 'angry music' is played such as 'Mars' from 'The Planet Suite' by Holst. Fade out the music and read the prayer.

Like a crack in a dam growing until the dam collapses, so our quarrels often grow into fights. Give us the courage to act, God. Teach us not to be helpless victims of our anger.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

