

Bible SiBLings

Distribute **Bibles** and invite group members to discuss one or more of the following scripture stories of siblings. The same questions can be used to explore each reading.

Readings:

Cain and Abel: Genesis 4:1-16

Isaac and Esau: Genesis 27:1-45

Joseph and His Brothers: Genesis 37:1-36, 42:1-45:8

Moses, Aaron and Miriam: Numbers 12:1-16

Mary and Martha: Luke 10:38-42

Andrew and Simon Peter: John 1:35-42

Mary, Martha and Lazarus: John 11:1-44

Questions:

- What sibling relationship is pictured in this story?
- How does the sibling relationship in this story compare to our relationships with our siblings?
- What do you learn about your own sibling relationships from this story?
- How was God working in the sibling relationship in this story?
- Does this story offer a positive example to follow? a negative example to avoid? Explain.

SiBLING STRiFe

Before the meeting prepare pair-off slips and sibling-situation slips:

- **Pair-off slips:** Prepare one slip for each participant, adding one, if necessary, to make the number of slips even. Number the slips, putting the same number on each of two slips, so that two slips carry the number 1, two slips the number 2, etc. Mix the slips in a **basket**.
- **Sibling-situation slips:** Prepare as many slips as one-half the number of anticipated participants. On each slip, briefly describe a potential sibling conflict. Use the examples below, but add others of your own. Place the slips in the **second basket**.
 - Two step-siblings argue about who's getting more attention.
 - Two siblings fight about who gets to use the car on Friday night.
 - Two siblings try to decide who will take their younger sibling out to play ball.
 - Two siblings argue about differing curfews.

Invite each group member to choose one slip from the basket of pair-off slips and find his or her partner. Then explain that their partners are their siblings—brothers or sisters—and that they're about to have an argument over a typical sibling problem. Invite one pair to draw a sibling-situation slip and act out the situation on their slip. After 2-3 minutes, stop the pair and ask:

- Who can relate to this situation? In what ways?
- How would this have played out at your house?

Repeat the activity for remaining pairs using the remaining sibling-situation slips. Ask:

- In what ways do we typically handle conflicts with our brothers and sisters? Why?

IDEAL OR REAL?

Distribute **pencils** and **paper**. Invite group members to describe the ideal brother or sister, using these questions to trigger their reflections:

- What characteristics would the ideal sibling have? List 5-10 traits.
- How would the ideal sibling treat you? How would he or she treat your friends?
- What would your relationship with your ideal sibling be like?
- If someone asked you what you liked most about your ideal sibling, what would you say?

After group members have finished writing, invite them to share their ideas. Discuss:

- Overall, what do we want in an ideal sibling?
- How realistic are we being?