

**Put Off**

**And**

**Put On**

Peacemaking

Helping **Kids** Apply

Mathew 18:15-17



With Purpose: [allthingswithpurpose.com](http://allthingswithpurpose.com)

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# Put Off Tattling, Put On Peacemaking

Dear Parents,

Thank you for seeking out ways to train your child's heart using biblical principles. The Bible is rich in wisdom and instructions for parenting and raising up godly children. It is our passion to bring these principles to life and present them using clear, easy to follow instructions for practical application. This study is part one in a series using the PUT OFF - PUT ON principle found in Ephesians 4. Use this as a three day unit study, a 3 week family devotional guide (simply spread out the content for each day, and review over the course of a week), and/or a ready reference to leave hanging on the fridge for frequent review. We hope this material is beneficial and encouraging to you as grow together as a family!

~ Julia and Sarah

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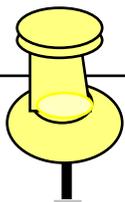
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## A Note from the Producer:

### Put Off Tattling, Put On Peacemaking



Do you find your child frequently coming to you to report on what another child has done wrong? Does it grate on your nerves to hear their report? When you are getting annoyed with your child, often times it is because sin is involved. If you find yourself feeling that your child should not be tattling on or arguing with their sibling or friend, it's because they shouldn't. Typically they are motivated by a negative, manipulative spirit. Getting to your child's heart is the only hope of helping guide your child to a real change verses an outward temporary change. We must give our children the tools and help them develop lifelong habits of good conflict resolution. **In this material we have outlined a series of scenarios for you, the Director, to act out with your children.** You will assume a character and your child will play themselves.

### Why Does Role Playing Work?

Kids love to pretend!! Kids love to succeed. Children learn through modeling. You will also notice negative examples are not included. I do not want you to practice how not to do it, because your children naturally know how not to do it.

### The Most Effective Way to Administer the Role Playing

Using the 'Act It Out' role playing cards as written. My husband and I owned and operated a franchise together for four years. One of the main benefits of buying into a franchise is the benefit of buying the systems or what they have tried and tested over the years and found to be successful. One of the temptations as new owners, is to think that you can do it better than all the other current and previous owners. While you may have contributions to the system, the corporate office encourages you to first focus on operating your business exactly the way you are trained. Verbatim, or word for word, say what they tell you to say and how they tell you to say it. Then, once you've mastered the system, you can try little changes and see if it works. I am not trying to say that I have the corner on parenting, but this is a way that has worked well for us. I would recommend trying it consistently before you try to make changes.

### When Can I Expect Results?

In the same way, teaching your children to wash their hands after they go to the bathroom, or turning out the light when they leave the room, this is not an overnight process. Helping your children to respond Biblically to those around them will also be a continual process. You will have victories and setbacks, but God's promise is true that we will reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9).



# Act it Out 1



## Scene One:

**Step 1.** You take a toy from your child. \*Do not have a sibling do this. It will not go as well!

**Step 2.** Have the child tell you, **“You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”**

**Step 3.** You respond, **“Yes, I will. I am sorry I took the toy from you. Will you forgive me?”**

**Step 4.** Then hug to show that you have reconciled.

## Role Play Conflict Resolution Scene One/Day One:

### Matthew 18:15

Explain that you are going to practice implementing Matthew 18:15.

**Say:** We are going to pretend that I am your sibling and I take a toy from you. I want you to try to help me see what I did was wrong and talk to me about it privately before you go get your pretend mommy or daddy. Here’s what I am going to do, and what I’d like you to do.

### Refer to Act it Out Scene One.

Practice this until your child can say **Step 2** without prompting. Later that day, go over to your child and tell them that you are going to practice what Matthew 18:15 says. Tell them that when you take the toy from them, you want them to say, **“You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”** It is important for you and them to use the exact words each time. That will help them develop a pattern and help it become second nature. Do NOT change anything. Do it exactly the same.

# Day 1: Instructions

*A summarized version of these instructions can be found on the Act it Out flash card.*

**Read Matthew 18:15:** “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens you have won your brother over.”

## **Tell your child the following:**

“Today we are going to be looking at what God says to do when we don’t like what someone is doing or has done to us. I am going to explain how to use the verse Matthew 18:15 when your sibling does something wrong. Then we are going to practice how God and I want you to respond. What that means is we are going to pretend that I am your sibling, and practice what to do when I take a toy from you. I want you to try to help me see what I did wrong and talk to me about it privately before you go get your pretend mommy or daddy. Here’s what I am going to do and what I’d like you to do.”

**Step 1:** I will take a toy from you. (Do not have a sibling do this. It will not go as well.)

**Step 2:** You will say, “You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”

**Step 3:** I will respond, “Yes, I will. I am sorry I took the toy from you. Will you forgive me?”

**Step 4:** Then we will hug each other to show that we have reconciled.

*Practice this until your child can say Step 2 without prompting.*

## **Tell your child:**

“Later today I am going to practice this with you again. When I take the toy from you, I want you to say, “You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”



## **Keys to success:**

Make sure they are well rested and fed!

Do NOT change anything. Do it exactly the same each time.

This will help develop a pattern and it will become second nature.

# Day 1: Digging Deeper [for Parents]



## Key Verse: Matthew 18:15

**“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens you have won your brother over.”**

That means if Seth takes a toy from Justin. Justin should give the toy. If Justin does not let go of the toy, a fight will happen. Then both children will be doing wrong.

## I Corinthians 10:13

**“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.**

**And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.**

**But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”**

Letting go of the toy and not fighting over it, is the way out.

Once the toy has been taken by Seth, and Justin gives it, then Justin should tell Seth, **“You should not have taken the toy from me. Will you please give it back?”** If Seth does not return the toy, then Justin should go get help from his parent. If these steps are followed, Justin does not get in trouble. If Justin screams at Seth when his toy is taken, if he fights by holding on to the toy, or if he goes straight to mom before talking to Seth, then Justin is wrong also. Justin’s action would need to be addressed. His actions are not justified simply because Seth did something to him first. *As parents we are always trying to check the heart, not just get the behavior we want.*

A common situation in many families, involves something being said by someone, that is hurtful. A child goes to their parent and says, **“Andrew said I wasn’t allowed to play with him.”** Parent: **“Did you talk to Andrew about it?”** Child: **“No.”** Parent: **“You need to go talk with Andrew about it first. Then, if you need help, come and get me.”**

*As parents we are not trying to take the easy way out. We are eager to help them resolve issues. However, the Biblical first step of going to the other person before seeking a parent must be understood by our children and enforced by the parents.*

# Day 1:

## Good Response or Bad Response

**Read the following stories and have your children decide which scenario does a better job of demonstrating the concept of peacemaking!**

### Scenario #1

One happy Summer day, Natalie and Noah were busy, playing in the backyard with their sand toys. Natalie was working very hard at building a beautiful castle, complete with swimming pool and balcony, where the princess would stand and call down to her prince. Natalie was imagining how lovely the princess would look standing on her balcony, and she began humming a happy little tune. All of a sudden, Noah came driving his dump truck through the sand, straight into Natalie's beautiful castle! "Noah!" cried Natalie in despair. "You ruined my castle!" Natalie began to cry. Noah felt very bad and quickly put his hand on Natalie's shoulder. "I'm so sorry, Natalie," he said. "I wasn't paying attention to where I was going and I ran into your castle. I'll help you fix it. Will you forgive me?" "No, I am very mad at you. Noah!" cried Natalie as she sprang to her feet. Natalie ran into the house and called out "Mom! Mom! Noah ruined my sand castle!" Natalie's mom heard her yelling and calmly took her by the hand, "Did you speak with Noah about this?" she asked. "I said I was sorry!" called Noah from the backyard.

- What do you think of the way Natalie responded? How *should* she have responded?
- What do you think of the way Noah responded? Did he do the right thing?
- Who do you think was in the wrong here? *Noah apologized for the wrong he did, but Natalie did wrong by refusing to reconcile and instead went to tattle on Noah.*

### Scenario #2

One afternoon, Natalie and Noah quickly finished a snack of apples and milk, then sprang out of their seats and dashed down the stairs to play with their toy kitchen. It was a new kitchen and both of them were very excited to play with it! Natalie began cooking up some pretend eggs, while Noah started setting the table with the plastic dishes. Noah finished setting the table, then reached in front of Natalie and grabbed a spoon from off the counter. "Noah!" yelled Natalie. Noah turned and looked at his sister. Natalie stopped for a second and thought. "I'm sorry for yelling, Noah, but I was using that spoon." "Oh," said Noah. "I'm sorry Natalie, I didn't know you were using it. Here, you can have it back! Do you forgive me?" "Of course I do" said Natalie. "Thank you for giving it back."

- What do you think of the way Natalie responded?
- What do you think of the way Noah responded?
- Which story shows a better example of peacemaking?



# Act it Out 2



## Scene Two:

**Step 1.** You take a toy from your child.

**Step 2.** Your child says, “**You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?**”

**Step 3.** You respond, “**No, I won’t. I want it.**”

**Step 4.** Have your child walk away in the direction of the pretend parent to get help.

## Role Play Conflict Resolution Scene Two/Day Two:

### Matthew 18:16

Day two: explain to your child that today you are going to help them practice Matthew 18:16. While they are playing today you will come over to them and take their toy. You want them to remember to respond with love toward you and say **Step 2** without getting mad at you. Have them Repeat **Step 2** right now until they are able to do it on their own. In a few minutes, surprise them by repeating Role Play **Scene One**.

**Repeat as necessary until they are successful.**

### Now explain Role Play Scene Two to them.

In this scenario, as the sibling you will not be willing to return the toy. Remind them during the Role Play, they should go get help from their pretend parent.

**Say:** Once you have talked to me and I have chosen not to respond, now it’s time to go find Mommy or Daddy to get help. I do not want to hear you saying, “Fine, I’ll tell Mommy or Daddy” because that is threatening. I do not want to hear crying and complaining because God tells us not to complain. I simply want you to go and get help.

# Day 2: Instructions

*A summarized version of these instructions can be found on the Act it Out flash card.*

**Read Matthew 18:16:** “But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

## **Tell your child the following:**

“While you are playing today, I will come over and take your toy without warning. I want you to remember to respond with love toward me and say, “You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”

*Practice it once right now.*

*In a few minutes repeat Role Play Scene 1. Repeat until they are successful.*

## **Now explain Role Play Scene 2 to them:**

“This time I am going to take the toy from you, but after you ask me kindly to return the toy, I am going to tell you no.”

**Step 1:** I am going to take a toy from you.

**Step 2:** I want you to say, “You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”

**Step 3:** I will respond, “No, I won’t. I want it.”

**Step 4:** I want you to walk toward this stuffed animal over here and pretend Teddy is your dad. Tell Teddy that you told me I should not have taken your toy, but I will not listen. Will you help, please?



Explain you do not want to hear your child saying, “Fine, I’ll tell Mommy or Daddy” because that is threatening your sibling. You do not want to hear crying and complaining because God tells us not to complain. You simply go and get help. Practice this as many times as necessary.

# Day 2: Digging Deeper [for Parents]



## Key Verse: Matthew 18:16

**“But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”**

The hope is that you will win your brother over by talking to him about the offense as outlined in Matthew 18:15, but if he does not recognize his sin and change then Matthew 18:16 comes into play.

*If he does not listen, then you go find a parent. When your child reaches you, he should be explaining what happened. You should do your best to hear what has happened in front of the other child. You should always listen and/or confirm with the other child before drawing a conclusion and passing judgment.*

## Proverbs 18:13

**“He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame.”**

You are listening and observing to discover what their actions are telling you about both hearts. If the child took the toy, you see selfishness and discontentedness, which you can address. If the other child yelled or hit because the toy was taken, you see anger in their heart.

Understand that these are opportunities for you to help them develop Godly habits. We should be excited that these opportunities are happening now while they are small, so when they are older they will use the Godly habits you have shown them. In addition, you will reap the benefit of having loveable children. They are much more likely to want to be around each other if they are not allowed to mistreat each other. Not to mention they will be attracting Godly friends and eventually Godly mates.

## Day 2:

# Good Response or Bad Response

**Read the following stories and have your children decide which scenario does a better job of demonstrating the concept of peacemaking!**

### Scenario #1

It was almost time for bed. Taylor and Olivia were cleaning up their rooms and getting their PJ's on when they heard mom call, "you both have a little time left to play in your rooms before we go to sleep!" "Hurray!" shouted Taylor. "Yay!" called Olivia. Taylor began running his toy train around the track, calling out "whoop, whoop!" and "ding, ding!" Olivia heard Taylor's excitement from the other room and galloped in to play along. She reached for the shiny blue engine that Taylor had been playing with and started pushing it along the track. "Oh no, Olivia" said Taylor. "I am playing with that train. Please give it back." "No!" shouted Olivia as she clung tightly to the toy. "Please Olivia, I really wanted to play with that one for just a few more minutes" pleaded Taylor. "Mine!" shouted Olivia with a look of determination. Taylor looked sadly at the floor and left the room to get help from Mom.

- What do you think of the way Olivia responded? How *should* she have responded?
- What do you think of the way Taylor responded? Did he do the right thing by getting help? *Yes. He tried calmly to resolve the situation with Olivia and since she did not respond nicely, Taylor can now ask for help from a parent. His motivation should not be out of cruelty to his sister, and his attitude should not be whiny or mean.*

### Scenario #2

It had been a long car ride. Taylor and Olivia were very tired of being cooped up and really wanted to run and play. "Are we there yet?" asked Taylor, for the 50th time. "No, just a few more minutes" replied Dad. "Why don't you look at a few more books and then we will be home" he suggested. Taylor reached for his favorite train book, but Olivia, in the seat next to him, quickly grabbed it out of his hands. "I want to look at this one!" shouted Olivia. Taylor got mad very quickly. "Mom! Mom!" he cried. "Olivia took my train book!" "Did you talk with her about it?" asked his Mom. "No" said Taylor. "Make her give it back!"

- What do you think of the way Taylor responded?
- What do you think of the way Olivia acted?
- Who is in the wrong? *Olivia is for taking the book, but Taylor is as well for responding the way he did.*
- Which story shows a better example of peacemaking?



# Act it Out 3



## Scene Three:

**Step 1.** You take a toy from your child.

**Step 2.** Your child says, “**You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?**”

**Step 3.** You respond, “**No, I won’t. I want it.**”

**Step 4.** Have your child walk away in the direction of the pretend parent.

**Step 5.** You say, “**OK, you may have your toy back, I’m sorry for taking it, will you forgive me?**”

**Step 6.** Have your child come back and say, “**Yes, I forgive you, thank you.**” Give each other a hug.

## Role Play Conflict Resolution Scene Three/Day Three:

### Matthew 18:17

Day three: explain to your child that today you are going to help them practice Matthew 18:17. While they are playing today you will come over to them and take their toy. You want them to remember to respond with love toward you and say **Step 2** without getting mad at you. Have them Repeat **Step 2** right now until they are able to do it on their own. In a few minutes, surprise them by repeating Role Play **Scene One**.

**Repeat as necessary until they are successful.**

### Now explain Role Play Scene Three to them.

In this scenario, as the sibling you will not be willing to return the toy. Remind them during the Role Play, they should go get help from their pretend parent.

**Say:** Once you have talked to me and I have chosen not to respond, now it’s time to go find Mommy or Daddy to get help. I do not want to hear you say, “Fine, I’ll tell Mommy or Daddy” because that is threatening. I do not want to hear crying and complaining because God tells us not to complain. I simply want You to go and get help.

# Day 3: Instructions

*A summarized version of these instructions can be found on the Act it Out flash card.*

## Review of Days 1 and 2

**Matthew 18:15:** “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens you have won your brother over.”

**Matthew 18:16:** “But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

### **Tell your child:**

“Today we are going to practice me taking your toy. You will ask for me to return your toy, and I will return it.”

**Step 1:** I will take a toy from you.

**Step 2:** I want you to say, “You should not have taken my toy, will you please give it back?”

**Step 3:** I will say, “No, I won’t. I want it.”

**Step 4:** You will start to walk toward the stuffed animal meaning the pretend parent.

I will say, “OK, you may have your toy back, I’m sorry for taking it, will you forgive me?”

**Step 5:** You will come back and say, “Thank you.”

**Step 6:** Then we will give each other a hug.



# Day 3: Digging Deeper [for Parents]



## Key Verse: Matthew 18:17

**“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”**

There comes a time in everyone’s lives when a parent is no longer there to give you direction. There is no longer someone there telling you what to do. While that is part of growing up, the down side is when you disagree with someone else there isn’t anyone there to tell you who’s right and who’s wrong. And there isn’t anyone there to punish you or others when people are unkind or sinning against you. (Unless you are breaking a governmental law.)

God outlines what needs to be done when adults need conflict resolution and they refuse to listen to Godly counsel as outlined in Matthew 18:15 and 16. The goal of verse 17 is not to shun people because we disapprove. The goal of this verse is restoration of that person to God. By telling the other members of the congregation what is going on, they can pray and offer support to the person who is sinning and the person being sinned against. Often, we try to hide sin. We are ashamed, and darkness does not like light. But we need to be there to support our brothers and sisters in Christ. We don’t always understand why things work when we follow God’s plan. We may even wonder why God designed certain things, but the one thing we must do is obey.

## Day 3:

# Good Response or Bad Response

**Read the following story, then ask your child the review questions**

It was a rainy day and Noah's friend Taylor had come over to play. The boys were upset that they could not play in their fort outside, but they were still having fun, building towers out of blocks and running their cars around the pretend city. "My car is the fastest!" declared Noah. "No, mine is" said Taylor. "Let's race!" The boys had been playing nicely with their cars for several hours, but suddenly, Taylor decided he wanted to play with the car that Noah had been playing with. "You have had your turn with the green car" said Taylor, "it's my turn!" "I'm not done with it yet" said Noah, "please give it back." "I wont!" said Taylor, an angry look coming on his face. "Please?" Noah said again. But Taylor reached out and shoved Noah away. Startled, Noah got up quickly and left the room for help. "Mom, Taylor took my car, and when I asked for it back, he pushed me" Noah explained. "You tried talking with Taylor about it and did your best to work it out?" asked his Mom. "Yes, I really did" Noah responded sincerely. "OK" said his Mom, "let's go talk about it with Taylor."

Noah and his mom found Taylor, still playing with the green car. "Taylor," said Noah's mom. "Noah has told me that you took his car and when he asked for it back, you told him no and then shoved him. Is that true?" "Yes" said Taylor, "I want to play with it now." "Would you please apologize to Noah and give him his car back?" asked Noah's Mom in a stern but gentle voice. "No, I want it!" Taylor demanded. "OK," said Noah's mom, "If you cannot play nicely with Noah, you will not be able to stay here. I will call your mom and have her come get you."

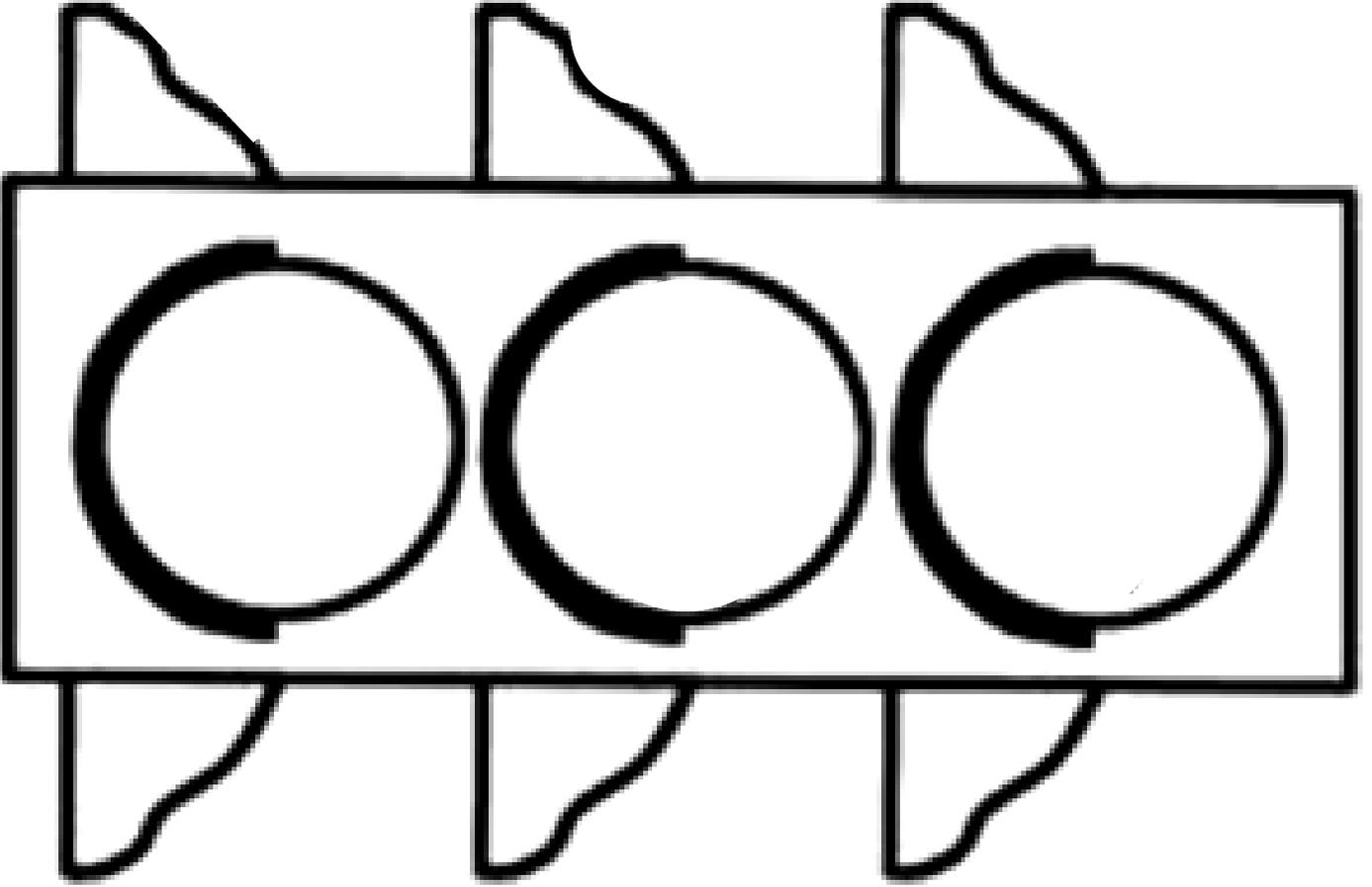
"Oh," said Taylor in a sad voice. "I don't want that to happen, I like playing with Noah, he is my friend." "I like playing with you too, Taylor," said Noah. "I'm sorry for taking your toy and shoving you, Noah. Will you forgive me?" asked Taylor. "Yes, I forgive you" said Noah. Taylor and Noah gave each other big hugs and continued playing with their cars.

- What do you think of the way Taylor acted at the beginning of the story? How *should* he have acted?
- What do you think of the way Noah responded? Did he do the right thing by getting his mom?
- Why did Noah's Mom tell Taylor they wouldn't be able to play together anymore?
- How do you think Taylor felt about having to leave?
- Did Taylor finally do the right thing?
- What would have happened if Taylor did not say he was sorry and ask for forgiveness?
- Was this a good example of peacemaking?

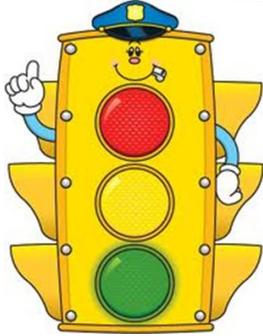
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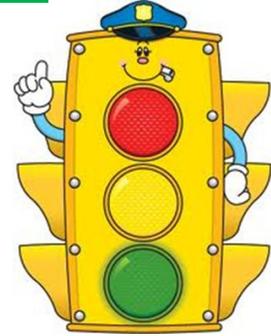
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# Put On



# Being a



# Peacemaker



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Matthew 18:15 & 16

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

# Put Off



Being a



Tattle Tale



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Proverbs 26:20

a quarrel dies down.

goes out, without gossip

Without wood a fire

# Put Off



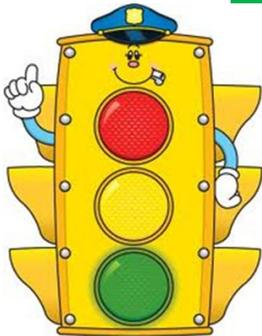
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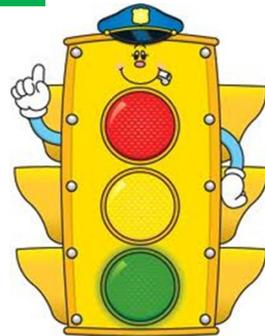
Tattle Tale

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# Put On



Being a



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**Without wood a fire  
goes out, without gossip  
a quarrel dies down.**

**Proverbs 26:20**

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:15 & 16