

16 March 2022 – Baptist pastors and leaders Insights meeting

Pandemics,

conflict

and calling



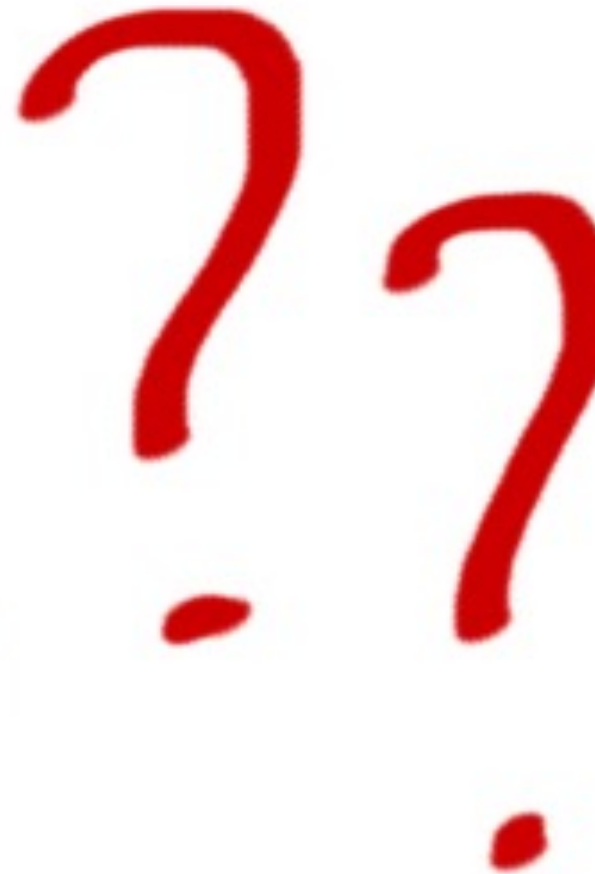
Bruce Burgess – National Director



# Covid HAS created **new** conflicts and **more** conflict

- ▶ The angry flatmates
- ▶ The fearful business owner
- ▶ The depressed HSC student
- ▶ The fighting couple
- ▶ The exhausted pastor
- ▶ The hyper-stressed children's worker

*Why* does how  
we respond to  
conflict matter?



## Because Jesus says that it does - enormously

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

May they also be in us **so that** the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—**so that** they may be brought to complete unity.

**Then the world will know** that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”      John 17:20-23

An  
overarching  
framework –  
*conflict as  
opportunity*

1. How can I **please and honour God** in this situation?
2. How can I **serve others**?
3. How can I **grow to be more like Jesus**?

Paul and the Corinthian church –  
1 Corinthians 10:31 to 11:1

# the PAUSE principle

## for negotiating *material* issues

“look not only to your own interests, but  
look also to the interests of others...”

Philippians 2:3-4

**P** repare

**A** ffirm relationships

**U** nderstand interests

**S** earch for creative solutions

**E** valuate options

1. This is a photo of a youth worker
2. He is NOT the one we are talking about!





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q: what then is your calling as  
pastors and leaders?

~~a: get trained to handle conflict better~~

q: what then is your calling as  
pastors and leaders?

a: yes – do get trained

BUT MORE strategic is that you **lead your congregation**  
to

- learn how to respond well to conflict and
- build a culture and community of peace

# How do I do this?

PeaceWise  
training events –  
nationally

Small group  
study material or  
books

Free resources  
online

Free hub  
meetings online

Get us to come  
to you

Run  
PeaceWiseKids  
or  
PeaceWiseYouth

# How do I do this?

PeaceWise training  
events – nationally

two for one offer for  
pastoral team staff –  
go to  
[peacewise.org.au](http://peacewise.org.au) and  
hit “PeaceWiseYou”



**PeaceWiseYouth**  
peacemakers for life



**PeaceWiseKids**  
peacemakers for life

- [peacewise.org.au](http://peacewise.org.au)
- [peacewisekids.org.au](http://peacewisekids.org.au)
- [peacewiseyouth.org.au](http://peacewiseyouth.org.au)
- [enquiry@peacewise.org.au](mailto:enquiry@peacewise.org.au)

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer against a sunset sky. The person is on the left side of the frame, facing right, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue, with some wispy clouds. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A time of prayer  
to close