

Word on the Street Discussion Time: A fight too far.

You could use this discussion starter with your family, your friends, or maybe in your class or your Church youth group. Read the story at the top and use the questions to start discussion. Then read the Bible story and talk through the second set of questions. It will probably take about half an hour. You could finish with a prayer based on your discussion.

Megan's parents had never managed to keep their many arguments private. Megan and her sisters had always had to sit around the dinner table, staring into space while their parents rowed about everything from her dad's affair to her mum's inability to cook vegetables. Almost every night, as far back as she could remember, there'd been something for them to shout at each other about.

Eventually, after her dad admitted a second affair, Megan's mum could take no more and ordered him to move out. The next day, she called her daughters together, and explained that she'd asked their father for a divorce. Megan was shocked. Even though she'd always hoped that the arguments would stop one day, she had certainly never wanted this.

Since she heard that news from her mum, Megan has changed. Her performance at school has started to drop; she's become more quiet in her social circle. She feels like no-one understands what she's going through. Her mum is pressing ahead with the divorce, and just three months after throwing her husband out, has even started going out with other men. Megan feels sick when they come round. Even though the house was always full of shouting, she wishes things could be back the way they used to be.

- How does this story make you feel?
- Have you or someone close to you gone through a situation like this? What was it like, and what were some of the effects? Share only what you feel comfortable talking about.
- What would be your advice to Megan at this point?
- Do you think it's better to stay in an unhappy marriage, or get divorced? Why? What other options might there be?

Read James 3: 13-18

- What does it mean to be a 'peacemaker' (v18)? What does this achieve?
- What advice might this passage provide to people who need to fix a broken relationship?
- Which type of 'wisdom' described is most like you? Which kind of wisdom would you prefer to have? Why
- Consider praying that God will help you to be wise, particularly in the area of relationships. If you're doing this in a group, consider praying for each other.

An extended version of this discussion appears in *The Ideas Factory: 100 Adaptable Discussion Starters for Teens*, by Martin Saunders, the Editor of *Youthwork* magazine. It is reproduced here with his kind permission.