Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an important series of studies on Oneness in Christ. Our topic today: When Conflicts Arise.

1. Ethnic prejudices
   a) Acts 6:1 What conflict arose while the early Christian church was experiencing remarkable blessings from God? 
   b) How did the minority group interpret the apparent mistreatment of their widows? 
   c) Acts 6:2-6 What prayerfully designed action plan was implemented to resolve this conflict? 
   d) What important lessons can we learn from this incident about how to maintain oneness in Christ when conflicts arise? 

2. Us and Them Attitudes
   a) What was the typical attitude of the Jewish people in the time of Jesus toward those outside of Judaism? 
   b) What important lesson did the apostle Peter learn as a result of his encounter with Cornelius? Acts 10:28 
   c) What supernatural revelation was given to demonstrate the Holy Spirit's activity among the Gentiles? Acts 10:44-48 
   d) How did apostles in Jerusalem respond when they heard reports of what God was doing in Caesarea? Acts 11:18 
   e) What additional evidence was given of the need to abandon the old “us and them” attitude toward the Gentiles? Acts 11:19-24 
   f) What are some “Us and Them” attitudes we might have today that need to be abandoned in order to experience oneness in Christ? 

3. Doctrinal conflict
   a) What troubling doctrine was reported to Paul and Barnabas while ministering to believers in Antioch? Acts 15:1 
   b) How did the church leaders in Antioch address this conflict over doctrine? Acts 15:2 
   c) How did the church leaders in Jerusalem seek to resolve this conflict? Acts 15:6-30 
      i) Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit v.28 
      ii) Come together v.6 
      iii) Let people share their perspectives v.7a 
      iv) Share testimonies of what God has done v.7b-12 
      v) Listen to the counsel of leadership v.13-21 
      vi) Share a united response and appeal v. 22-23 
   d) What was the reaction of the believers in Antioch after they heard the report from Jerusalem? Acts 15:30-31 Was that reaction shared by all? 
   e) What can we learn from the ongoing teaching ministry of Judas and Silas? Acts 15:32-34 

4. Discussion question: What important lessons have you learned from this study about conflict resolution?