



Words of Wisdom

The power of a gentle answer

Proverbs 15:1

*A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Step 1

Choose a scenario card.

Step 2

Read the **harsh response** printed on the card.

Step 3

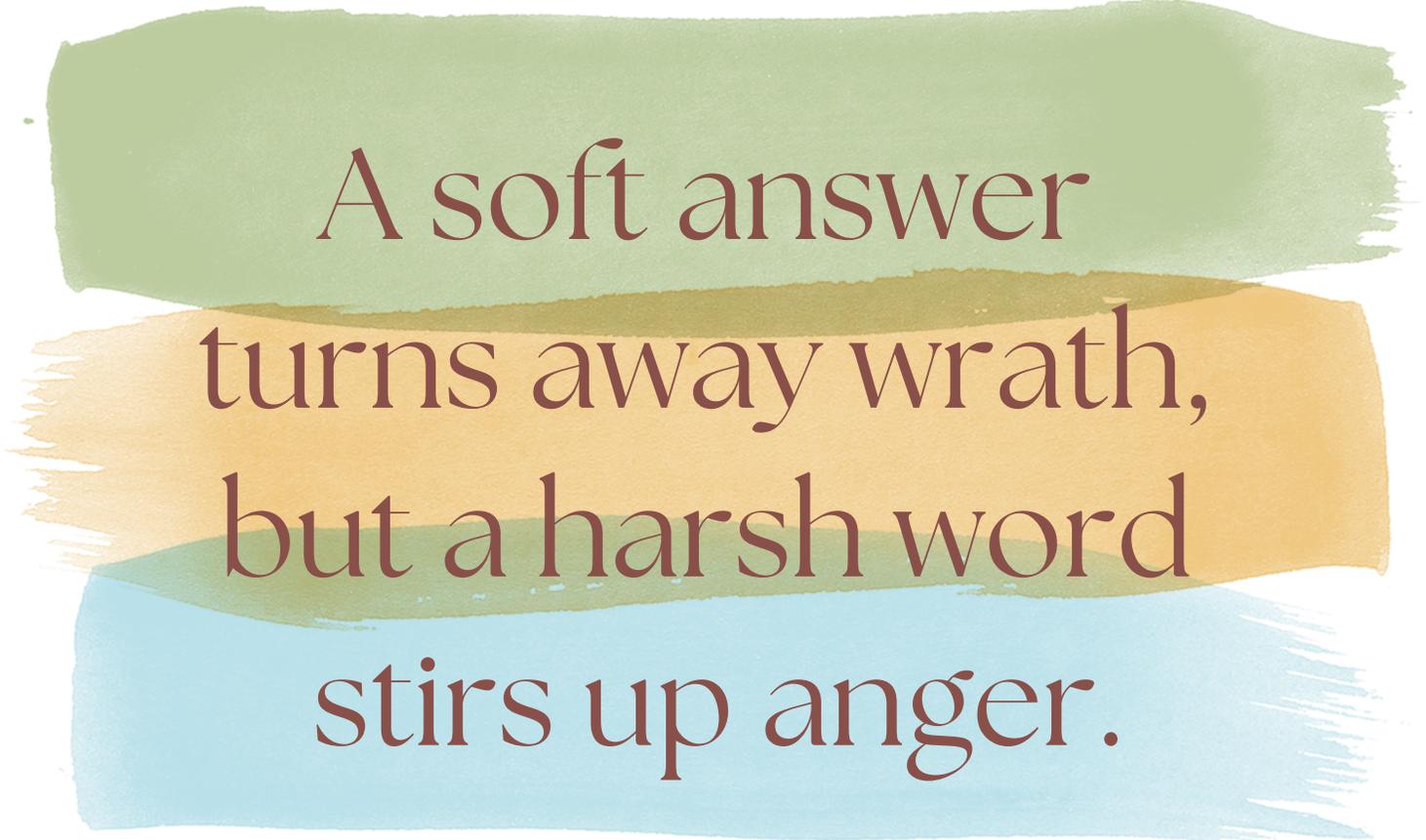
Rewrite the response so that it reflects a **gentle answer**—one that is truthful, calm, and loving.

Step 4

If you are with a group, discuss how the rewritten response might change the outcome of the conversation.

A “gentle answer” is not silence, avoidance, or dishonesty. Biblical gentleness speaks truth with restraint, humility, and care.



The text is presented on three overlapping horizontal brush strokes. The top stroke is green, the middle is orange, and the bottom is blue. The text is centered across these strokes.

A soft answer
turns away wrath,
but a harsh word
stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

Scenario 1

A family member criticises how you handled something.



Harsh response: "If you think you can do it better, then go ahead."

Scenario 2

Someone questions a decision you helped make at church.



Harsh response: "We've already talked about this. I don't know what else you want."

Scenario 3

A loved one points out something you forgot.



Harsh response: "I have a lot on my plate—why are you making this a big deal?"

Scenario 4

Someone you don't know well connects with you to offer unsolicited advice.



Harsh response: "I didn't ask for your opinion."

Scenario 5

Someone corrects you publicly at work.



Harsh response: "You clearly don't even know what happened."

Scenario 6

Leadership forgets you when your volunteer group is thanked.



Harsh response: [thinking]
That's the last time I give my time to that.

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Scenario 6

Leadership forgets you when your volunteer group is thanked.



Harsh response: [thinking]
That's the last time I give my time to that!