



## Group Decision Tip

*E-mailed every two weeks to help groups make good decisions*

### Revenge is Never a Reason

**In principle**, just because you did something bad to me is never a reason for me to do something bad to you. Doing something for revenge or to *get even* just makes more bad things happen.

Sometimes we justify harming someone to *teach them a lesson*. If this is my goal, I should first ask, "What is the very best way for the lesson to be taught? Am I the best teacher? Is this the best method?" Probably not.

Another justification is that *harming you will bring me peace*. Really? If it is emotional peace that I want, I should first consider all the possible ways to get it, including changing my own attitudes and behaviors. Among all the options, revenge is rarely the most effective path to personal peace.

**Practical Tip:** Make decisions always in the best interests of the group going forward. Base decisions only on what you think will make the future better, not on what you think will fix the past. Decide to harm only as a last resort, when there are no other ways to achieve the group's primary interests.

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