

This is Us

marriage & family

First

Pastor
Glen Barnes

DEALING WITH FAMILY CONFLICT: From Us to Chaos

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE | A Lifetime Covenant: *From Me to We*
GOD'S DESIGN FOR PARENTS | Engaged and Intentional: *From We to Us*
What Do We Do When Things Don't Go The Way They Were Designed?

THE MODEL OF A FAMILY GONE BAD

From Joseph to Joshua: 440 Years of Dysfunction, Slavery and Wandering

- Lost their positive family heritage (Exodus 1:8)
- Slavery; lost their dignity and pride
- Breakdown of traditional family roles
- Characterized by anger and violence
- Fickle faith
- Turned an 11 day journey into 40 years of wandering (Deut 1:2)
- Fighting and jealousy
- Ignoring God's clear laws; Idolatry and wild party
- Constant complaining and focus on the negative
- Blaming others (and God) for their problems
- Low self esteem (Number 13:33)
- Controlled by fear and doubt
- Settle for the hardship of the wilderness instead of the goodness of the promised land

LESSONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH FAMILY CONFLICT AND DYSFUNCTION

1 I Don't Get to _____ my family, but I do get to _____.

“ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:7-9 (NIV)

God's message to Joshua begins with _____.

“ For we are each responsible
| for our own conduct.”

GALATIANS 6:5 (NLT)

“ The vast majority of couples who drift apart do so slowly, over time, in a snowballing pattern of blame and self justification. Each partner focuses on what the other is doing wrong, while justifying his or her own preferences, attitudes and ways of doing things. From our standpoint, therefore, misunderstandings, conflicts, personality difference and even angry quarrel are not the assassins of love; self justification is.”

- Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me), Carol Tavris

2 I Can Choose to Respond in a _____ Way.

Peacemaker
Sulker
Stuffer
Exploder
Litigator

COMMON WAYS OF DEALING WITH CONFLICT:

• Christlike Conflict Confrontation _____.

"Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs." **PROVERBS 19:11 (NLT)**

"A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted." **PROVERBS 12:16 (NLT)**

• Christlike Conflict Confrontation _____.

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently."

GALATIANS 6:1 (NIV)

• Christlike Conflict Confrontation _____ more than it speaks.

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." **JAMES 1:19 (NIV)**

"To answer before listening— that is folly and shame." **PROVERBS 18:13 (NIV)**

• Christlike Conflict Confrontation has the _____ of the Other Person in Mind.

"Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit." **PROVERBS 15:4 (NLT)**

• Christlike Conflict Confrontation is _____.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." **EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)**

3 With God's Help, I Can Be the One Who _____.

“ I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”



EXODUS 20:5-6 (NIV)

Open Your Bible to **Joshua 3:14-17** to follow along.

So What?

“ then **choose** for yourselves **this day** whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

JOSHUA 24:15 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *now on the APP* |

- 1- Are you team Thanksgiving or Team Christmas (which is your favorite and why)?
- 2- How did your family handle conflict and disagreements?
- 3- Think about all that the Hebrew people went through in the 440 years of Slavery and Wandering in the Dessert. What does a heritage like that do to a person? Look at the list of things that characterized that era in Israel's history. Do you relate to any of those things?

- 4- What do you think it means when Pastor Glen said "I Don't get to choose my family but I do get to choose how I respond"? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? How have you seen this principle worked out?
- 5- Review the "Common ways people respond to conflict" in the message notes. Which one do you tend to do? Look at the five Christlike ways to deal with conflict. Is there one of those five that you think is the most important? Is there one you would like to work on in your own life?
- 6- Read Joshua 3:14-17. What facts do you see as significant in this great story of faith to leave behind the 440 years of slavery and wandering?

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