

Common Causes Of Family Conflicts

Welcome

IT'S TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER INTO CAUSES OF FAMILY CONFLICTS.

This 7-day devotional journal was created to complement our Causes Of Family Conflicts And How To Resolve Them blog post. Journaling is a great way to help you digest what you're learning through the written word. We hope you find this helpful if you're dealing with family drama and need help through it. Enjoy your journaling time!

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Stand By Me

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." – Matthew 1:24, NIV

Joseph was betrothed to Mary, the mother of Jesus. When he learned of her pregnancy, Joseph would have had two options: He could have dragged her into the streets and publicly stoned her, or he could quietly divorce her.

Being a man of gentleness and compassion, he chose the second option. But while he was sleeping one night, God appeared to him in a dream. He told Joseph that the pregnancy was truly supernatural and shouldn't be afraid to take Mary as his wife.

The following day, Joseph followed God's command and married Mary. Doing this in society at that time would be the same as admitting his guilt. Chances are, Joseph was judged harshly by others for his decision. He may have lost the support of family and friends.

Sometimes, God calls us to stand by a loved one even though others don't understand what we're doing. Maybe God called you to forgive an unfaithful spouse or continue to believe in a child who's abusing drugs or choosing other self-destructive paths.

It doesn't matter what others think or do. What matters is that, like Joseph, you are faithful. If God has called you to continue to support a family member or relative, do so with joy, knowing that you are creating an incredible legacy of love.

God, grant me the wisdom to discern Your voice and the strength to ignore what others say. Help me to stand faithful and love the ones You've entrusted to my care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts 1. Who has God called you to support? 2. How has God spoken to you recently? 3. Who do you know who needs to hear the voice of God today? How can you pray for them?

Legacy

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" – 1 John 3:1, NIV

Matthew West has a song called Family Tree. It's about the painful legacies that parents can hand down to their children without realizing their impact.

As he wrote the song, Matthew was inspired by a story from one of his listeners. Rebekah had grown up in a dysfunctional home filled with illness and sin. At the end of her father's life, someone turned to her and said, "I guess this will be your legacy."

Rebekah responded, "I guess so." But instantly, the Spirit of God spoke to her, reminding her that her legacy doesn't come from her earthly family but from her relationship with Him.

It's easy to think that we're doomed to carry out what our parents or grandparents did. But God can break the chains that bind you. Their story doesn't have to become your story, thanks to the power of grace.

God, help me! Sometimes, the enemy tries to convince me that I must repeat my family's past sins and mistakes. But I am a member of Your family. I don't have to live in dysfunction and sin. I can be free. Please help me to walk in this truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts 1. What lies does the enemy tell you about your family? 2. Have you ever felt "destined" to live out a legacy from your parents?

doing differently that your parents or grandparents didn't do?

3. How are you changing the course of your family history? What are you

Painful Paths

"But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice." – 1 Samuel 8:3, NIV

When John's son was arrested for drunk driving, he was distraught. He bailed his son out of jail, but he was so troubled that night that he couldn't sleep. So he called up a good mentor and poured out his pain.

"What have I done wrong?" John asked. "Where did I fail my child? What sin did I commit that made him think he could drink and drive?"

John's mentor pointed to the story of Samuel, explaining that sometimes children don't follow their parent's example.

"You can be a godly parent who does everything right, and your child still makes their choices. All you're responsible for is to show them God's path. You can't make them walk it."

Even amazing parents who have excellent reputations like Samuel (see 1 Samuel 12:4) can sometimes discover their kids are deep into sin. But you aren't responsible, and you don't have to hang onto guilt. As a child of God (the perfect Parent!), you are free from all condemnation.

God, help me! My child is sinning. They've gone astray despite my attempts to show them the right path. Please, please, call my beloved child back to You. Do whatever it takes to get their attention. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

I. Did you ever defy your parents and do something foolish? How did that turn out?
2. Is there a young person in your life that you could pray for and mentor?
3. How do you handle it when you see someone else walking a clearly sinful path? Do you confront it or ignore the problem?

Untangled Knots

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." – 1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV

Missy was a young girl when her grandmother taught her to knit. She had no interest in the craft at first but after a snowstorm stranded her indoors one afternoon, she became mesmerized by the sound of the needles clacking together.

But being a new knitter, she sometimes ran into problems and tangled her yarn. In frustration, she'd hand over her project to her grandmother. The older woman would patiently fix the young girl's mistakes, repeating, "Patience and time untangle most knots in life."

It was a phrase that came back to Missy later on in her life when she was trying to parent an unruly teenager.

There were moments when she felt like she was at the end of her rope as the two seemed to fight over everything. But after each argument, she would hear her late grandmother's voice and remember to give the relationship time and patience.

Today, Missy has a beautiful friendship with her now-grown daughter. She's thankful she didn't give up on her years ago.

God, help me to be patient in my relationships. Let me remember that You can untangle any situation, no matter how I've managed to knot it up. Please work in my life—I need Your patient hand and steady guidance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts 1. Who in your life do you struggle to have patience with? 2. When you're struggling to be patient, what do you think about? 3. What would you like your relationship with the person in answer #1 to look like? What's one thing you could do today to make that relationship a reality?

Known by Love

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." – John 13:35, NIV

When Carl planned his family's annual reunion, he chose Disneyland as the destination. He handled the reservations for each family member and arranged for their transportation needs, too.

Then he went and designed t-shirts for the event. As a graphic designer, he took care to make a beautiful design that would make it easy for relatives who hadn't been in touch to recognize one another. All of the relatives expressed how much they loved them at the reunion, and Carl felt delighted seeing the shirts in photos later.

Carl created shirts so his family would know one another. Likewise, Jesus gave the gift of love to His family—Christians everywhere. In fact, this love is meant to be how Christians are identified in the world.

Do your words and thoughts show others that you love Jesus? Do your actions reflect His compassion and gentleness? Do you carry a spirit of grace with you into each new day?

God, I want to be known as someone who loves fiercely. But deep, sacrificial love isn't in me. I need Your strength and Your grace to love others. I can only love by resting in Your love, so help me to do that today. Remind me when I fall short of how deep and how wide Your love is! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts 1. Have you ever been identified because you wore a special uniform or shirt? 2. If there were a t-shirt that honestly described your family, what would it look like? 3. How do you show love to others? Is there someone you could reach out to today to bless with your presence?

Family Traditions

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." – Luke 8:21, NIV

Sarah had longed for a family for years. But sadly, she never married or had children. When her ill sister—her last living relative—passed away one summer evening, Sarah was crushed.

As the months passed and November arrived, Sarah felt a deep sadness. Thanksgiving had always been her favorite holiday, but now, she had no one to celebrate with. She longed to surround herself with family.

Then she had an idea. She put an ad in her local paper and made one online. She invited strangers to celebrate Thanksgiving with her at a local church. She made it clear that everyone was welcome regardless of their age, marital status, or faith.

To her delight, ten people showed up to Sarah's Thanksgiving dinner. She enjoyed it so much that she hosted it the next year and the next. Many of the attendees became friends, some even becoming like family. Now it's been decades, and Sarah still looks forward to the annual event.

Family may not always look like you picture it. But God can surround you with kind, loving souls who embrace you right where you are.

God, I need family! I know You didn't intend for life to be a solo journey. Send good-hearted people my way, and let me remember Sarah's example. Help me to welcome those who are "family"-less right in my community. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Have you ever felt like you didn't have a family?
2. How could you show love to your community?
3. Do you invite others who may not have loved ones to join you during annual celebrations like Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Special Adoptions

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son..." – John 19:26, NIV

When Tyler was in first grade, he met his best friend, Dylan. The two boys instantly bonded over their love of superheroes, and they quickly became inseparable. Even in high school, the two remained friends.

Shortly after graduating college, Dylan was killed in a car accident. Tyler was overwhelmed with grief. Although he knew he'd see his friend again since they were both Christians, he still struggled with the pain.

The one thing that helped was talking with Dylan's mom. From the day of his friend's funeral, Tyler began to look after the older woman as if she was his own mom. He mowed her grass, cleaned the gutters to her house, and handled any task she needed.

When Jesus was dying on the Cross, he turned to John and "gave" her his mother. He asked John, his beloved disciple, to treat His mom as he would his own mother. John fulfilled this request, and from that day forward, he looked out for Jesus' mom.

There are many in your community today who need to be "adopted" by a loving Christian. Perhaps you could bless the elderly man on your street, treating him as you would a beloved grandfather. Maybe you could be friend the lonely girl at work, blessing her as you would your sister.

God, please show me someone I could bless. Send me to be a (brother/sister/parent/child) to someone in need. My hands and my heart are open to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts 1. Have you ever had someone adopt you or take you under their wing? 2. Who would you love to "adopt" and treat as a beloved family member? 3. How could you pour love into the person you mentioned in answer #2? What kind words could you speak over them?

Congratulations!

You completed the 7-day devotional journal!

Our hope is that when you find yourself dealing with family conflicts, you will know that God loves you and your family. You also belong in Gods family and He will never let you down.



Join Our Facebook Groups For Friendly Accountability And Community



The Christian Women's Corner private Facebook groups were created with you in mind. CWC's goal is to provide and facilitate encouragement, accountability, and community for Christian women.

The CWC private Facebook groups include Christian Women's Corner, Good Morning Girls, and Love God Greatly Bible studies.

Free online Bible study groups have become very popular because they offer exibility and accountability for your daily quiet time. You'll feel connected with a group of women who share the same love of Jesus that you do and will be able to share as much or as little as you want with them.

We're excited and hope you will join our private Facebook groups to start reading the word of God daily and have the accountability to keep up this habit.

To nd out more about the Christian Women's Corner Facebook groups, please click the green button below.



About The Author



Alicia Bowyer created Christian Women's Corner after talking to a good friend one day. They discussed how hard it was to keep up with daily prayer, Bible reading, and telling others about Jesus who didn't share their faith. She knew that some might not struggle with these three things, but many do.

She wanted to take the knowledge that she gained from over 40 years on her Christian walk and help others.

Alicia lives in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, with her family, whom she loves dearly.

To find out more, visit: www.ChristianWomensCorner.com