

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024

**Series Title:** God's Plan for the Family

**Lesson Title:** Keys for Dealing with Conflict in the Family

**Key Scriptures:** Proverbs 11:29-31 (NIV)

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## KEYS FOR DEALING WITH CONFLICT IN THE FAMILY

### Proverbs 11:29-31 (NIV)

29 Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

All families have conflict to one degree or another. There have been conflicts and challenges in the human family since the days of Adam and Eve. The Old and New Testament scriptures have shared numerous stories and biblical accounts of triumph and tragedy within the family.

If you're married, you're going to have some conflict with your spouse. If you have children, you're going to have conflict with them. If you have siblings, you're going to have conflict with your brothers and sisters. Conflict in the family won't be eradicated in this life, but it can be managed in a way that honors God. Today, I would like to share seven keys for dealing with family conflict.

## **KEY 1: CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES WISELY**

**Exodus 14:14 (KJV) – “The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”**

Not every disagreement is that deep. Reflect on the significance of the conflict. Is it a minor issue that might resolve itself over time, or does it touch on a fundamental principle aligned with your core values? Prioritize conflicts based on their potential impact on your life and those around you.

Choosing your battles wisely is an art that involves discernment — the ability to recognize when to confront an issue and when to step back. It's not about dodging all conflicts, but about judiciously allocating your energy, time, and resources to address only those issues that genuinely matter.

## **KEY 2: UNDERSTAND THAT ALL FAMILIES EXPERIENCE A LEVEL OF DYSFUNCTION**

**Romans 3:23 (KJV) – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”**

There are no perfect families! Every family unit has conflicts, challenges and issues. Accepting this truth will alleviate the pressure of perpetuating facades that sabotage and avoid engaging in healthy conflict resolution. We will not change what we are not willing to acknowledge is a problem in the home. Acknowledging the dysfunction does not mean that it is acceptable or warranted. However, acknowledging and dealing with the truth of the situation is the first step toward a Godly resolution.

## **KEY 3: ALWAYS LOVE YOUR FAMILY**

**1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”**

God wants us to follow His example and have unconditional love for our family. That means we love our family members in spite of, and no matter what. Jesus said in **John 15:9 (KJV)** “**As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**”

When dealing with family there will be times when you get disappointed, frustrated with one another and face some big-time challenges – but no matter what the situation, we are called to love unconditionally. And when we do this, the power of God can break through and send restoration.

#### **KEY 4: MANAGE YOUR EMOTIONS**

**Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)** – “**He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.**”

It is imperative that you keep your emotions and behaviors in check. The Bible says, “**Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil**” (**Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV)**). The ability to demonstrate temperance and self-control is a sign of spiritual maturity. Behaving irrational and undisciplined will add fuel to the fire. **Proverbs 11:29 (KJV)** says, “**He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind...**” Strife and contention will cause unwanted storms and trouble in your home. However, learning to manage your emotions will help you avoid making reckless decisions that can negatively impact your family.

#### **KEY 5: COMMUNICATE LIFE AND NOT DEATH**

**Proverbs 18:21 (KJV)** – “**Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.**”

Good communication is essential for success in the family. The lack of effective communication can be detrimental. Our words have the power to kill or make alive. Choose to speak life into your family. Avoid speaking profanity, unproductive and negative words to each other.

The Bible says in **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)** “**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**”

Use your words to edify and build up instead of tearing down. Learn how to discuss your problems and formulate solutions through effective communication. **Proverbs 15:1-4 (NIV)** says, “**A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.**”

## **KEY 6: MASTER THE ART OF LISTENING**

**James 1:19 (KJV)** – “**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**”

We’ve heard the saying that, “God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak”. Listening is a great tool to help resolve issues and conflicts in the family. Some problems in the family may not require fixing but all do require listening.

Many solutions are discovered by listening to the concerns of others. Allow your family members the opportunity to be heard during discussions and disagreements. This sends a message to them that they are important and what they are saying does matter. God is our Father. He is omnipotent and omniscient. He humbles Himself to listen to our prayers and concerns every day. We should do the same for our families.

## **KEY 7: PRACTICE PRAYER AND FORGIVENESS**

**Mark 11:25 (KJV) – “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”**

A life of continuous prayer and forgiveness is a major key for dealing with conflict in the family. Prayer and forgiveness is therapeutic because it helps us to heal. It is a challenge for any family to live free of offense. There will be misunderstandings and disagreements.

**Proverbs 18:19 (KJV) says, “A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.”**

It is difficult to resolve issues and reconcile with someone who is unforgiving and uncooperative. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). This is easier said than done. It is imperative that we maintain a consistent prayer life.

Pray for all of your family members. Jesus taught us that we should love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us (Matthew 5:44). Forgiveness is a gift to yourself. Refusing to forgive someone is like stabbing yourself and hoping that your enemy will feel it. Free yourself from the bondage of unforgiveness today!

## **CONCLUSION**

Every conflict is different and requires a level of spirituality, attention, prayer and patience to get to the resolution. Discernment and Godly wisdom are paramount to get through an impasse in any particular circumstance. However, we know that if you put these key principles in place, you will see victorious results.

Please note: If you desire spiritual counseling from the church, you can go to our website at [harvestlife.org](http://harvestlife.org). to sign up.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

**Lesson:** Keys for Dealing with Conflict in the Family

## **Key 1: Choose Your Battles Wisely**

1. **Fill in the Blanks** – Exodus 14:14 (KJV) says “The Lord shall \_\_\_\_\_ for you, and ye shall hold your \_\_\_\_\_.”

## **Key 2: Understand that All Families Experience a Level of Dysfunction**

2. **True or False (circle the answer):** Acknowledging and dealing with the truth of a dysfunction in the family is the first step toward a Godly resolution.

## **Key 3: Always Love Your Family**

3. **Fill in the Blanks** – 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) says “Above all, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ deeply, because love covers over a multitude of \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. **Select the Correct Answer** – No matter what the situation, we are called to love unconditionally. When we do this...
  - a. The family remains broken
  - b. Nothing happens
  - c. The power of God can break through and send restoration
  - d. None of the above

## **Key 4: Manage Your Emotions**

5. **Fill in the Blanks** – Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV) says “Be ye angry, and \_\_\_\_\_: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the \_\_\_\_\_”

6. **True or False (circle the answer)** – Learning to manage your emotions will help you avoid making reckless decisions that can negatively impact your family.

**Key 5: Communicate Life and not Death**

7. **True or False (circle the answer)** – Good communication is **not** important for success in the family.
8. **Circle the Correct Answers** – When communicating with family avoid speaking the following words to each other:
- a. Profanity
  - b. Unproductive words
  - c. Positive words
  - d. Negative words

9. **Write out Proverbs 18:21 (KJV).**

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10. **Fill in the Blanks** – Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) says “Do not let any \_\_\_\_\_ come out of your mouths, but only what is \_\_\_\_\_ for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

**Key 6: Master the Art of Listening**

11. **Fill in the Blanks** – James 1:19 (KJV) says “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to \_\_\_\_\_, slow to \_\_\_\_\_, slow to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**12. Write the Answer** – List one way listening is beneficial for the family.

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**Key 7: Practice Prayer and Forgiveness**

**13. Fill in the Blanks** – Mark 11:25 (KJV) says “And when ye stand praying, \_\_\_\_\_, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may \_\_\_\_\_ you your trespasses.”

**14. True or False (circle the answer):** A life of continuous prayer and forgiveness is a major key for dealing with conflict in the family.