**Living In Harmony With In Laws**

Genesis 2:24-25

**Key truth:** When you marry someone, you marry more than just the individual you marry the family.

**Some good and not so good stories of in law relationships.**

1. Isaac, Rebekah and Esau’s wives – A bitter relationship.

2. Miriam, Aaron and Moses – Sibling disagreement on choice of

 spouse that lead to disrespect for Moses’ leadership in Israel.

3. Naomi & Ruth – Mutual love and respect.

**Wisdom for Married Couples:**

1. Understand that the marriage relationship takes the highest

 priority in the familial relationships

 A. There is to be a separation from parents.

 B. There is a new allegiance formed with the spouse.

 C. There is an establishing of their own family identity void of

 parental control.

2. Establish and communicate clear boundaries in marriage.

3. Living in the same house must be done with caution and with

 clear boundaries set.

1. Early in the marriage in laws should stay in their own homes unless it’s not feasibly possible.
2. Both spouses must agree to in laws moving in.
3. The in-laws must clearly understand their role in the home.
4. In laws shouldn’t serve as primary disciplinarians to the grandkids.

**Wisdom for In-Laws:**

1. Allow your kids to live independently of you in their marriage.

2. Respect them as equals and don’t impose your will on them.

3. Don’t interject your feelings or opinions into the relationship.

4. Allow them to go through the growing pains of marriage.

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Respect, love, listen and honor your in-laws. If need be forgive them and seek a healthy loving relationship.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What is your relationship like with your spouse’s in-laws? What makes it good? What makes it challenging?

Why is paying attention to your spouse’s family upbringing and culture important before getting married? What red flags should not be ignored?

Daughter-in-law and mother-in-law relationships tend to be strained in the marriage. Why do you think that occurs? What are some things we can do to avoid some disagreements?

Read Ruth 2:8-13: Ruth showed extraordinary concern and care for Naomi. How was she viewed by people in the community and especially Boaz? What does that say about Ruth’s maturity?

What is your relationship like with your child’s spouse? What makes it good? What makes it challenging? What can you do to strengthen the relationship?

Read Genesis 2:24-25: What is the hardest part for parents when it comes to letting go of their kids.