

Getting Started

All families have traditions. It's the "this is how we do things around here" stuff. And learning traditions can often be a daunting task, especially when you're dealing with in-laws. Have the group share a few stories or examples of their family's traditions at gatherings/holidays.

Going Deeper

Read Romans 12:18 – 21

Often the model for dealing with family issues is to wait around until the other person finally gives in or enough time passes that no one can really remember what the issue was in the first place. Neither of those seem to be good models, nor do we see examples of that being a good strategy from the scripture. Instead, the process God lays out is very proactive.

Discussion: What are some of the words or phrases used in these passages that point towards being proactively helpful rather closed off or vengeful?

How would you rate yourself, on a scale of 1-10, in dealing with family relational issues? (1 = very closed off or vengeful 5 = passive/aggressive and 10 = very proactively helpful) Why do you rate yourself there and has it changed over the years?

Read Luke 6:32 – 36

Discussion: Describe a time when you really went for the revenge thing with someone in your family? What was gained or lost? How would you handle it differently now?

Scott gave us three great steps to take in dealing with our families at the next gathering:

1. P _____ for them before you go
2. S _____ them while you're there
3. Do g _____ things for them (without expecting anything in return)

Acting Normal

Many of us are heading towards a season of family get-togethers. Talk with each other about some of the hurdles you may be facing in this season and pray for one another.