

The Family Feud

WHY WE DEAL WITH IT, OR DROP IT:

Matthew 18:15-20

- ▶ Because **Dad said so**.
- ▶ It's **hurting** us more than **them**.
- ▶ Forgiveness doesn't mean **forgetting**.
- ▶ It makes our **relationship** with **Dad** better.

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT:

Matthew 18:21-35

- ❶ It starts with a look **in the mirror**.
Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 12:1-2
- ❷ Focus on what was done **for us**, not **to us**.
Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13
- ❸ Give **mercy** not **justice**, or let **God be God**.
Romans 12:19, 2 Samuel 16:5-14, Proverbs 20:22, 24:29
- ❹ When we just can't win, **walk away**.
Romans 12:17-21
- ❺ Forgive like your life **depended on it**.
Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

TAKING IT HOME

1. Take a moment to review the five points Chris gave for how to deal with a family feud. Is there one point you need to focus more time and attention on?

Is there one that you'd like prayer for?

2. As you think about your relationships with your extended family, are there any family members you sense you need to initiate with as a result of this sermon or Growth Group study?

The Family Feud

WHY WE DEAL WITH IT, OR DROP IT:

Matthew 18:15-20

- ▶ Because _____.
- ▶ It's _____ us more than _____.
- ▶ Forgiveness doesn't mean _____.
- ▶ It makes our _____ with _____ better.

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT:

Matthew 18:21-35

- ① It starts with a look _____.
Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 12:1-2
- ② Focus on what was done _____, not _____.
Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13
- ③ Give _____ not _____, or let _____.
Romans 12:19, 2 Samuel 16:5-14, Proverbs 20:22, 24:29
- ④ When we just can't win, _____.
Romans 12:17-21
- ⑤ Forgive like your life _____.
Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13



ON-PURPOSE PARENTING

Presenters: Dave & Koreena Enns

Date/Time: Thursday, May 20, 7-9 PM

Location: North Coast Church, Live Auditorium

Cost: \$5/person; \$8/couple

Child care is available: \$10/child, Family Max/\$25

This workshop will offer you a practical framework of parenting techniques to provide love and discipline that will WORK for children ages 2-12. You won't need to study child psychology to understand the simple steps and powerful techniques to encourage good behavior, divert problem behavior, and reinforce and strengthen your bond with your children. Sign up online at www.northcoastchurch.com/ncu or call the church office at 760-724-6700.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 9, 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *The Family Feud*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than an event. Sometimes we don't want to be on that journey. What are some reasons people have for holding onto grudges and not forgiving?

Can you think of any signs that a person may not have forgiven someone?

2. Looking back at the home you were raised in, which of the following best describes the way people responded when they were hurt or wronged? Circle as many as apply.

- a) forgiveness was quickly given
- b) forgiveness was hard to come by
- c) forgiveness had to be earned
- d) forgiveness was considered a sign of weakness
- e) forgiveness was considered a sign of strength & character
- f) issues that might require forgiveness were ignored
- g) other _____

DIGGING DEEPER

1. One aspect of maintaining healthy relationships is learning to quickly ask for forgiveness when we've wronged someone. In Genesis 32 & 33 we see the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, brothers who had been estranged for years because Jacob had stolen Esau's inheritance. After reading Genesis 32:6-11 & 33:1-11, answer the following questions:

What principles of asking for forgiveness or pursuing reconciliation do you see in this story?

What emotions do you think Jacob experienced in this process?
What about Esau?

Asking for forgiveness can be difficult. Why do you think it's often so hard to ask for forgiveness?

2. Being part of a family often means learning to deal with a variety of different personality types, lifestyles and beliefs. The Bible provides a wealth of general relational principles that can help us do our part in developing healthy relationships with all of our family members. How could the following passages help us relate better with our various family members and handle difficult family situations?

Matthew 7:1-5

Matthew 5:23-24

Romans 12:14-21

3. Chris mentioned this weekend that forgiveness means refusing to seek our own revenge. But doing that can be difficult because it can feel like the other person is getting away with something. In 1 Samuel 24:1-13, we see an example of David not seeking revenge even though he had been wronged by Saul.

How and why do you think David was able to not seek justice for himself?

What is the most challenging aspect for you in not seeking justice or revenge?

How can this passage help motivate us to forgive instead of seeking revenge?