

# Family...It's All Relative

Family...It's a loaded word. There are so many emotions tied into it, so many feelings wrapped up in how you relate to one another. Families can be supportive, they can be manipulative. They can leave you alone, they can be constantly in YOUR business. They can treat you like an adult OR they can still treat you like a child.

Think about this verse:

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one*

*~Genesis 2:24*

It doesn't say "For this reason a couple will get married and still put their families first in everything." It doesn't say "For this reason a couple will get married and allow their parents (cousins, siblings, etc) to influence the marriage."

There is room for your marriage AND your family. However your marriage comes FIRST.

1. Who, in my family, is supportive of our marriage?

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2. What have they done or said to demonstrate this?

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3. Who, in my family, does not have our marriage's best interests at heart?

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4. What have they done or said to demonstrate this?

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5. Question for your spouse: Is there anyone in my family that you have difficulties with? Why?

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*You don't just marry a person, you marry their family.*

*~Les Parrott*

6. Who do we need to spend more time with in terms of mentoring and/or support?

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7. Describe your relationship with your parents and their influence in your marriage.

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8. Describe your relationship with your in laws and their influence in your marriage.

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9. Describe your spouse's relationship with your parents.

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10. Question for your spouse: What boundaries do you feel need to be in place to deal with our families?

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*I think every family is dysfunctional, and some manage to control it better than others.*

*-Viggo Mortensen*