

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

TEACHING PEACEMAKING IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

1. REVIEW

A. THE **BLAME GAME**: SOMETIMES CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) MAKE **CHOICES** THAT **LEAD TO CONFLICT**. AND... THE **PROBLEM** GETS **WORSE** WHEN THEY **REFUSE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHOICES** BY **PLAYING THE BLAME GAME**.

B. THESE ARE **5 WAYS** CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) **PLAY THE BLAME GAME**.

1. **BLAME** SOMEONE ELSE FOR **THEIR CHOICE**.

a. "IT'S NOT MY FAULT... YOU MADE ME ANGRY... SHE/HE PUSHED ME FIRST".

2. **COVER UP** FOR **WHAT THEY DID WRONG** IN **HOPES** THAT **NO ONE WILL FIND OUT**.

a. "IF I CAN JUST GET THIS MESS CLEANED UP, ___?___ WILL THINK SOMEONE ELSE DID IT... IF I TELL, I'LL GET IN TRIUBLE".

3. **MAKE EXCUSES** FOR DOING **SOMETHING WRONG**, **OR** FOR NOT **DOING SOMETHING RIGHT**.

a. "I **FORGOT**... I WAS TOO **BUSY**... NO ONE **REMINDED** ME".

4. **PRETEND** THAT **SOMETHING THEY DID WAS** **NOT** **THEIR FAULT**.

5. **LIE** ABOUT **WHAT THEY DID**.

a. "I **DIDN'T TAKE IT, DO IT, SAY IT**" BUT, THEY DID!.

B. THE **BLAME GAME** **OVER TIME CAN CAUSE** OUR CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) TO DETERMINE THAT THEY ARE **VICTIMS** = SOMEONE WHO IS **CHEATED, FOOLED, OR INJURED** BY **SOMEONE ELSE**.

1. THEY GET IN THE **HABIT** OF **BLAMING** THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS, TEACHERS, OR NEIGHBORS **FOR THEIR PROBLEMS**... **BUT, NEVER THEMSELVES**.

2. THEY OFTEN COME TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE **AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS**.

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
TEACHING PEACEMAKING IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

3. THEY RARELY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFLICTS OR PROBLEMS.
4. THEIR CHOICES ARE OFTEN BASED ON SELF-PITY OR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.
5. SADLY, THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS FOR ALL OF THEIR LIVES.

C. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN NOT TO PLAY THE BLAME GAME IS TO TEACH THEM TO LEARN TO OVERLOOK MINOR OFFENSES BY LEARNING TO FORGIVE, AND MAKING A DELIBERATE CHOICE NOT TO:

1. TALK ABOUT IT,
2. GOSSIP ABOUT IT,
3. DWELL ON IT, AND LET IT GROW INTO PENT-UP BITTERNESS OR ANGER.

D. RESISTING THE BLAME GAME

1. MANY TIMES IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS WE WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR CHOICES BEFORE WE CHANGE OURS.

a. PROBLEM: THAT MEANS WE ARE PUTTING OURSELVES AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONTROLLING OUR CHOICES!!

1) IF THEY DON'T CHANGE... THEN NEITHER WILL WE.

2) ... AND THAT MAKES US FEEL AND ACT LIKE A VICTIM!!

2. HOWEVER... GOD WANTS US TO CONTROL OUR OWN CHOICES NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO.

a. GOD WANTS US, AND OUR CHILDREN, TO BE VICTORS... NOT VICTIMS!

b. GOD WANTS US, AND OUR CHILDREN, TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER OUR SINFUL REACTIONS TO OTHERS.

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
TEACHING PEACEMAKING IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

- c. GOD WANTS **US**, AND OUR **CHILDREN**, TO KNOW THE **FREEDOM** THERE IS IN USING **SELF-CONTROL** AND IN **MAKING WISE CHOICES** THAT **PLEASE HIM**.
 - d. **WHEN** (NOT IF)... **WE DO WHAT IS RIGHT** AND **WISE** IN **CONFLICT SITUATIONS... THAT IS REAL FREEDOM!!!**
2. **THREE BASIC RESPONSES TO CONFLICT FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN:**
- A. **ESCAPE RESPONSES = PEACE FAKING**
 - 1. **WALKING AWAY FROM THE CONFLICT... AND THE RELATIONSHIP.**
 - a. PEOPLE USE **ESCAPE** RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN **AVOIDING CONFLICT** THAN IN **RESOLVING CONFLICT.**
 - b. **ESCAPE** RESPONSES **NEVER RESOLVE CONFLICTS.**
 - B. **ATTACK RESPONSES = PEACE BREAKING**
 - 1. PEOPLE USE **ATTACK** RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN **WINNING A CONFLICT** THAN IN **PRESERVING A RELATIONSHIP.**
 - a. **ATTACK** RESPONSES ARE DIRECTED AT **BRINGING AS MUCH PRESSURE TO BEAR ON OPPONENTS AS IS NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE** THEIR **OPPOSITION.**
 - C. **PEACEMAKING RESPONSES = PEACE MAKING**
 - 1. **PEACEMAKING** RESPONSES ARE **DIRECTED TOWARD FINDING:**
 - a. **JUST**
 - b. **MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT.**
2. **PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT SITUATIONS**
- A. **OVERLOOK AN OFFENSE**
 - 1. **Proverbs 19:11 (NASB)** A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to **overlook a transgression.**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
TEACHING PEACEMAKING IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

2. **OVERLOOKING AN OFFENSE** IS A FORM OF **FORGIVENESS** THAT INVOLVES A **DELIBERATE DECISION NOT** TO:

a. **TALK** ABOUT IT,

3. **GOSSIP** ABOUT IT,

a. **DWELL** ON IT, AND LET IT **GROW** INTO **PENT-UP BITTERNESS** OR **ANGER**.

B. **GET HELP TO TALK TOGETHER (MEDIATION)**

1. WHEN YOU CANNOT RESOLVE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU... **ASK SOMEONE TO MEET WITH BOTH OF YOU** TO HELP YOU **TALK TOGETHER TO WORK OUT YOUR DIFFERENCES**.

2. REMEMBER THAT THE SOLUTION NEEDS TO BE:

a. **FAIR**

b. **MUTUALLY AGREEABLE**.

3. PARENTS

4. FRIEND

C. IF YOU CANNOT SOLVE A CONFLICT BY TALKING WITH EACH OTHER... THEN YOU CAN **BOTH TELL YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY TO A PERSON IN AUTHORITY WHO WILL DECIDE ON A SOLUTION. (ARBITRATION)**.

1. PARENT

2. TEACHER

3. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

4. PASTOR

3. **DISCUSS: PEACEMAKING IN REAL LIFE CONFLICTS**

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