

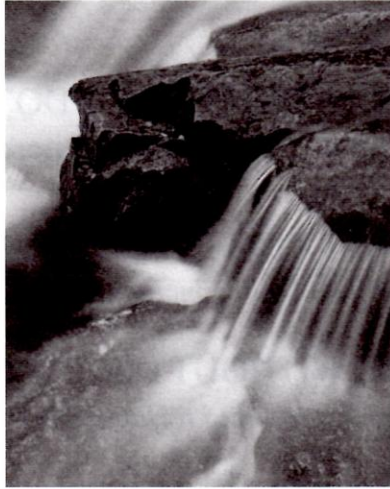
**BRINGING
PEACE & HARMONY
— TO THE —
BLENDED FAMILY**

*WHERE EVERYBODY
FEELS AT HOME*

DR. KEVIN LEMAN

WORKBOOK

W O R K B O O K



BRINGING PEACE & HARMONY TO THE BLENDED FAMILY

WHERE EVERYBODY FEELS AT HOME

DR. KEVIN LEMAN

WITH

BELINDA JOLLEY



SAMPSON MINISTRY RESOURCES

4887 ALPHA, SUITE 220

DALLAS, TEXAS 75244

800-371-5248 • 972-387-2806 • FAX 972-387-0150

WWW.SAMPSONRESOURCES.COM • E-MAIL: INFO@SAMPSONRESOURCES.COM

© 2000 THE SAMPSON COMPANY (ALL RIGHTS RESERVED)

**NOTE: REPRODUCTION OR DUPLICATION IN ANY FORM OF ALL
OR ANY PORTION OF THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS PUB-
LICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON 1	BEFORE ALL OF US SAY “I DO” <i>Preparing for the Challenges and Rewards of Blended Families!.....</i>	1
LESSON 2	WITH THESE KIDS I THEE WED <i>What to Do When You’re Including More than Two!.....</i>	6
LESSON 3	BLENDING WITHOUT COLLIDING <i>Working Together to Build a Home Where Everybody Wins!.....</i>	11
LESSON 4	SURVIVING THE BIRTH ORDER BLENDER <i>How Your Unique Birth Order Affects Your Relationships!.....</i>	16
LESSON 5	SAME LANGUAGE—DIFFERENT DIALECT <i>How to Communicate so Both Spouses Will Listen and Keep on Loving!.....</i>	21
LESSON 6	LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH YOUR MATE’S EYES <i>Learning from What You See so Your Marriage Can Be All God Wants It to Be!.....</i>	26

(Printed references New King James Version)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

The *BRINGING PEACE & HARMONY TO THE BLENDED FAMILY* workbook accompanies the six video lessons by Dr. Kevin Leman and is critical to the study. This workbook will help couples make practical application of Dr. Leman’s video lessons. Use the workbook aggressively! Whether you are completing the study with a group of couples or on your own, be sure to take notes on the video lessons, then work through the discussion guide, writing down your thoughts, ideas, and comments. Fill in every blank.

NOTE: Each lesson is designed to be completed in 55 to 60 minutes, but in the event that you are unable to finish in the allotted time, feel free to carry over to the next session or complete the lessons on your own. May God bless you in your study of *BRINGING PEACE & HARMONY TO THE BLENDED FAMILY*.



Lesson 1

BEFORE ALL OF US SAY “I DO”

*Preparing for the Challenges and Rewards of
Blending Families!*

SCRIPTURE

Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
--Ephesians 5:22-26

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Practical advice for dating and pre-marriage

- A. Date continuously for at least ____ years. Avoid long-distance relationships.
- B. Go slow and really get to know the person.
- C. Don't involve your kids in the _____ process.
- D. Run a “credibility check” on the person you intend to marry.
- E. Talk to your intended's ex-spouse.
 - 1. Win his or her cooperation.
 - 2. You might “hear” something.
 - 3. Clarify child support issues.
 - 4. Ask about kids visiting the other parent. Will the visitation arrangements change after the marriage?

II. How to know if you're falling in “love” or falling in “_____”

- A. It's easy to fall in “need” and view marriage as a 50-50 agreement.
- B. Falling in “love” results in a marriage with a 100-100 agreement.

III. Charting the course for a successful blended marriage

- A. Know where you're going. Expect and plan for the _____.
- B. Don't let the sun go down on your anger.

IV. Myths of blended marriages

- A. Our new family will be just like our old family.
- B. It's easier to blend because our kids are older.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Take a few moments to get to know one another by thinking of the study as a journey. Dr. Leman speaks often about being on a ship and charting our course. Share something about your blended family's situation by completing the sentence with one or more of the statements below. (You may choose to write your own.) Today my blended family journey is more like a ship...

- ...in dry dock being fitted out and loaded.
- ...pulling away from the dock.
- ...making solid progress on course.
- ...headed for stormy seas.
- ...trying to chart a course to calmer seas.



2. Dr. Leman offers helpful suggestions for dating or engaged persons before they marry. One is to date continuously for two years. Discuss specific behaviors or attitudes you think individuals could not hide for two years.

3. If you are already in the blended family, share what worked well for you or what you would do differently during that dating or pre-marriage period. Write your ideas and share them with the group.

4. Dr. Leman suggested people conduct a “credibility check” on persons they intend to marry. Jot down questions or statements you might use when you talk with your intended’s ex-spouse. Share your statements with the group.

5. *Sally has three children ages 9-months, 2 and 4 years old. Her husband died in an automobile accident six months ago. Sally’s parents live twelve hours away and are not in good health. She contracts with companies to write software manuals. Sally’s contracting allows her to be at home with her children and help meet household expenses. Thomas is divorced and worked with Sally on a project. He felt sorry for her when her husband died. He is crazy about her children, especially the baby. Sally is glad since she can’t get the baby to stop crying most of the time. Thomas does not get to see his own children often. Thomas asked Sally to marry him after they had been seeing each other socially for about three months. Sally knows her children need a good father, and she is going to deplete the life insurance money in a couple of years. She knows she will grow to love Thomas like she did her first husband. Sally feels Thomas loves her—after all, he wouldn’t want to take on three small children if he didn’t. She knows their lives will get easier as the children get older. Thomas is even willing to move out of his home into hers to keep the children in a familiar environment.* Now review the story and underline any words or phrases that might indicate Sally and Thomas fell in “need” instead of “love.”

6. If you could share only three of Dr. Leman’s pre-marital suggestions with Sally from point I of the outline, which ones would you share?

7. Continue thinking about Sally and Thomas. Part of getting to know the person you think you want to marry may include asking some tough questions and even doing a credit check. Brainstorm some financial questions Thomas and Sally need to ask, in addition to any child support issues.

8. List below the three most important reasons you want or wanted to marry your mate or future mate.

9. Did you fall in “love” or fall in “need”? Look at the reasons you listed in number 8. Check the box in front of the reasons you think may be based on need. Discuss what a couple might say or do if they made a list and found they had fallen in “need” instead of “love.” List your responses below.
-
-

10. Dr. Leman described the mortar of the foundation of a blended family as anger, jealousy, guilt, and love. Christ must be our foundation in marriage. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Draw bricks (squares) around the words and phrases that might describe some of the other bricks needed in the foundation of your marriage.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. –1 Corinthians 13:4-7

PERSONAL APPLICATION

11. Dr. Leman stressed how marriages can honor Christ by husbands and wives participating in a 100-100 relationship. Think of your own attitudes and actions. Jot down ways you and your mate or future mate can contribute to this kind of relationship. Discuss your thoughts with your spouse or intended spouse this week. Pray together about areas in which you both need to move from a 50-50 mindset to a 100-100 mindset.
-
-

12. You must know where you are going if you are going to chart a course for the journey of your blended family. Part of your planning is to expect and plan for storms. Identify your potential storms and decide how you will agree to handle them. Write your thoughts on the storm cloud below.



13. Read Matthew 14:23-33. Why do you think Peter started sinking? Why do you think Jesus waited until Peter cried out to Him before He “*stretched out His hand and caught him*”? When did Jesus calm the storm?
-
-

14. Notice that Jesus did not calm the storm until Peter and He were safely in the boat (verse 32). Look back at the storms or potential storms you identified in number 12. Ask God to help you focus and hold onto Him. Recognize your dependence on Him and thank Him for always being there—even when He helps you *through* the storms instead of taking them away.

Pray with your mate or future mate. If you are already married, ask God to help you develop a marriage that will honor Christ.

Remember, your goal is to bring peace and harmony to the blended family. If the information this week has revealed some stress points, determine to make the best of your situation, whatever it may be. Blending families is challenging, but with God’s help, you can do it! Think of it as a process—not simply a wedding. Dr. Leman suggests it takes 3-7 years for blending to take place. It is an ongoing process. Make a commitment to the journey. Once the ship has sailed, stick with it.

Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.
--1 Corinthians 8:1b

