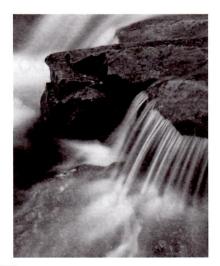
# BRINGING PEACE HARMONY TO THE BLENDED FAMILY

WHERE EVERYBODY FEELS AT HOME

DR. KEVIN LEMAN

WORKBOOK



# BRINGING PEACE & HARMONY TO THE BLENDED FAMILY

# WHERE EVERYBODY FEELS AT HOME

# Dr. Kevin Leman

WITH
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## Lesson 2

# WITH THESE KIDS I THEE WED

What to Do When You're Including More than Two!

# **SCRIPTURE**

B.

Dad disciplines his kids.

"...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." -- Joshua 24:15

		LESSON OUTLINE			
I.	How	How to establish a "den" where the "cubs" feel			
	A.	The blend must happen first with mom and dad.			
	B.	Expect a full range of emotions, e.g., anger, guilt, jealously, love, etc.			
	C.	Set realistic expectations. (Expectations – Reality = Disillusionment)			
	D.	Recognize that blending families is an ongoing process.			
II. Learn what kids want and need from the new family.					
	A.	Move into a "" zone—"our" house. Don't move into his or her house.			
	B.	Accept and respect your mate's children.			
	C.	Develop mutual determination or atorelationship with your spouse.			
	D.	Create the appearance of being in one accord, even if you disagree. Disagree behind closed doors.			
	E.	Maintain order in the home.			
III.	Who	disciplines whose kids in the blended family?			
	A.	Mom disciplines her kids.			

How shoulder-to-shoulder determination overcomes land mines in the drive to survive					
A.	Use "Knee" power. Pray!				
B.	Use "No" power. Avoid letting guilt keep you from disciplining your children.				
Pra	Practical ways to solve problems before they become too hot to handle				
A.	Understand that a wife can love her husband in a blended family only to the extent that she feels her "cubs" are safe and secure in the "den."				
B.	Make room for other family relationships, such as grandparents.				
C. Children gain security from					
	<ol> <li>Decide which traditions to carry forward.</li> <li>Develop new traditions.</li> </ol>				
D.	Deal with anger and other emotions during regular family meetings.				
E.	Do not "trash talk" your ex-spouse.				
	DISCUSSION GUIDE				
Oliv steps cand can' pare	Oliver had his own room before his mom married "that man" after she divorced Oliver's father. Oliver is a first grader who now must share a room with his new stepbrother, Alan. Alan is a second grader and was an only child. His mom died with cancer about two years ago. Oliver always left the bathroom light on at night. Alan can't sleep with a light on, so bedtime brings conflict each night. If you were Oliver's parents, what might you do to make Oliver and Alan feel safe and comfortable in their new home?				
	k about barriers you think might prevent your children from feeling safe in their ded home. Jot your ideas below and share with other participants.				
circu worl	t blended families realize they are beginning a new journey under less than ideal amstances. However, you can live above your circumstances by allowing God to a in your life through your circumstances. Read the following passages from the of Joseph who came from a dysfunctional and disintegrated family, but whom God				

used to preserve the nation of Israel. Jot down a brief description of Joseph's circumstance in the second column. You may not have time to identify all the passages during the session, but share one or two with the group. Complete or review the other passages during the coming week.

Scripture	Joseph's circumstance	Anger, Jealousy, Guilt, or Love	
Genesis 37:3-4			
Genesis 37: 5-11			
Genesis 37:20			
Genesis 39:7-20			
Genesis 43:16-18			
Genesis 43:16-18			
Genesis 43:29-30			
Genesis 45:4-15			

- Identify which emotion(s), or mortar of the foundation of the blended family, you see at work in each of Joseph's circumstances. Discuss your choices with the group.
   Write your answers in the third column of the chart above.
- Do the math: Expectations Reality = Disillusionment. Dr. Leman reminded us in the
  first lesson to expect anger, guilt, jealousy, and love in blended families. Discuss
  ways your family may have experienced these feelings.

ANGER			
GUILT			
JEALOUSLY			
LOVE			

Holiday or Event	Established Traditions	New Traditions			
Christmas					
Easter					
Thanksgiving					
Birthdays					
Vacations					
Other:					
Other:					
Brainstorm ways you can develop new traditions for each holiday or event. Keep mind you are not deciding to change them now, you are just brainstorming other possible ways of celebrating together as a family. List your ideas under the New Traditions column.					
Traditions column.		ATION			
Traditions column.	PERSONAL APPLIC				
Traditions column.  P  Dr. Leman suggests	that blended families schedule some areas that should be dis	e meetings once a week in the			

If your family is blending, who specifically is in the blender? Dr. Leman suggests
mom and dad must blend first, but there are likely other relatives involved. During the
coming week, sketch a diagram of your family tree. Begin with a circle in the middle
representing you. Consider involving your spouse and children in tracing your
genealogy.

Remember, blending must begin with mom and dad if you really want to bring peace and harmony to your family. Share the commitment Joshua made as he declared, "... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Continue to ask Christ to lead you as you steer your family toward calm waters.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." --John 15:12

