

In-Lawing

**DRAW CIRCLES,
NOT LINES**

Additional Resources

How Can I Make My In-Laws Feel Honored and Cherished?

- Seek their advice
- Share your music, articles, meme's, podcasts and jokes
- Share your favorite reads
- Invite them into your lives
- Introduce them (proudly) to your friends
- Celebrate their accomplishments
- Sit with them in church
- Seek their response on things you send them.
- Make their favorite cookies, snacks, desserts and meals
- Arrange get-togethers that include them
- Help them assemble, repair or install household items
- Show them affection - Hugs, Kisses, ILY's
- Let them know how much you love and appreciate their family
- Tell jokes, poke good-hearted fun at them
- Confide in them
- Find common interests and enjoy them together
- Respect their privacy
- If they do something upsetting, discuss it with them
- Know and love their friends
- Invite them to your events
- Invite them into business opportunities
- Without asking, help with household chores and work
- Ask them "how are you feeling about...?"
- Be genuinely thankful for them and to them
- Frequently send pictures and quotes from your kids

- Tell your FIL how much and what you appreciate about his daughter. And likewise your MIL about her son
- Arrange one-on-one time with your kids
- Don't issue too many rules for them when they babysit
- Write them a personal letter
- Look for ways to pitch in and assist during visits and gatherings
- Act excited and enthusiastic about family events
- Willingly participate in family rituals and traditions
- Ask questions about their childhoods
- Create a legacy video
- Let them know you trust them

Related Scripture Passages

- You knit me together in my mother's womb. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before there was yet one of them. Psalm 139
- If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18
- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

Additional Resources

Relationship Building Conversation Topics

- Your Spouse as a Child
- Your In-Laws' Childhood
- Advice You May Need
- Interests You May Share
- Your In-Laws' Love Story
- Their Favorite Random Facts
- Family Rituals and Traditions
- Recent Accomplishments
- Ask "What has this season has been like for you?"

10 Things We've Realized About In-Lawing

- Your primary loyalty lies with your spouse and family - we applaud that.
- In-law problems can become marital problems.
- Our role in our kid's lives has changed.
- Good relationships with our IL's are worth the Time and Effort.
- Offer opinions only when asked.
- Try not to be nosy.
- Be as fair as possible, don't choose sides. We're for your family and your marriage.
- Don't overstay; "The Fish Rule".
- Use purposeful words - conversations have a long shelf life.
- Children learn how to treat their parents and grandparents by your words and actions.

What If Your In-Laws Act Like Outlaws?

- Practice being "Unoffendable"
- Five Tools for Protection
Prayer | Boundaries | Kindness | Patience | Grace
- Three Things "Honoring" Your Parents (In-Laws) Does Not Mean
 - Submerging your own feelings, desires, preferences and needs in the service of "doing things their way."
 - Permitting disrespect, control, or manipulation toward their selfish ends.
 - "Obeying" all parental requests or requirements.

Mother Teresa's Humility List *(Also helpful in your marriage and other relationships!)*

- Speak as little as possible about yourself.
- Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others.
- Avoid curiosity.
- Do not interfere in the affairs of others.
- Accept small irritations with good humor.
- Do not dwell on the faults of others.
- Accept censures even if unmerited.
- Give in to the will of others.
- Accept insults and injuries.
- Accept contempt, being forgotten and disregarded.
- Be courteous and delicate even when provoked by someone.
- Do not seek to be admired and loved.
- Do not protect yourself behind your own dignity.
- Give in, even when you are right.
- Choose always the more difficult task.