

Preparation for Marriage Manual

Part 8 – In-Laws or Out-Laws – it is your choice

You are about to become an in-law.

What does the word “*in-law*” mean to you?

Write your definition of being an “*in-law*” and share it with your future partner.

My definition of what “*in-law*” means:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Notes on the discussion with my future partner and their definition

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

What examples of in-laws do we find in the Christian Bible?

Genesis 26:34 – Genesis 27:46

How would I have responded if I had been in the same situation?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Exodus 18:13-24

How would I have responded if I had been in the same situation?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Ruth 1:1 – 4:22 (Ruth and Naomi)

How would I have responded if I had been in the same situation?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Describe the ideal in-law relationship from your perspective

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Answer the following questions

1 What does the word “*leave*” mean to you as commanded in **Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7-8** and **Ephesians 5:31**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 If your parents were to help you get started financially, what might they expect in return?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 How do your parents feel about your plans for marriage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4 What emotional ties with your parents interfere with your marriage relationship? Give an explanation.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5 How do you think your in-laws view you?

6 What would you consider to be “*interference*” by your in-laws?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7 How did you get along with your mother and father during your childhood?

Mother

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Father

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

8 Describe your present relationship with your mother and father.

Mother

.....

.....
.....
.....

Father

.....
.....
.....
.....

9 How do you think your father and mother view your partner?

Mother

.....
.....
.....
.....

Father

.....
.....
.....
.....

10 What **one** thing about your partner's father and mother do you dislike?

Mother

.....
.....
.....
.....

Father

.....
.....
.....

.....
11 What **three** things about your partner's father and mother do you really appreciate?

Mother:

1

2

3

Father:

1

2

3

12 What customs in your home differ from those in your partner's home?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

13 Describe how and where you would like to spend your first Christmas after marriage.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

14 What have you done in the past to let both your own parents and your future in-laws know how important they are to you?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

15 During the **past two weeks**, what have you done to express your positive feelings towards your parents and your future in-laws?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

16 What **new things** could you say or do that would let your parents and your future in-laws know that they are important to you?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

17 Describe what you have done to discover from your parents and in-laws what kind of future relationship they expect from you and your future partner [such as how often to visit or call, their involvement in the upbringing of future children, etc.]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

What are you planning to do about their expectations?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

18 In the past how have you helped both your parents and your future in-laws to meet their own needs and develop a greater meaning to their lives as the result of you leaving their home and getting married?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

What are you planning to do about this after you are married?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

19 In the past what have you done with both your parents and your future in-laws to make it easier for them to demonstrate love towards you as a married couple?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....
.....

What are you planning to do about this after you are married?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

20 What have you done **in the past** to assist your parents and your future in-laws to receive your love for them?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

What have you done **in the past** to demonstrate your love for them?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

What do you plan to do **in the future** to ensure this love relationship will continue and mature in the future after you and your partner are married?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

What do you think would happen if you wrote a letter to your future in-laws sharing with them why you are looking forward to having them as in-laws and at the same time thanking them for providing your future partner in the coming marriage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Use what you have learnt from this study to draft this letter below:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

In what way will the presence of Jesus Christ in your life help you in building a positive in-law relationship?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....