**Reconciliation Specialization Exam | Case Studies**

# Instructions

* Using essay style writing, please respond thoroughly to each of the questions below.
* Compose your answers clearly and precisely
* Each answer should be approximately **1 page to 1½ pages in length**.
* Answers may be written in first or third person.
* Support your answers using Scripture references, but please *do not write out the verses*.
* The use of biblical references in answers should demonstrate the responsible use of hermeneutical principles and show applicable and clear connection to the case study and question.
* **This is a closed book exam. The only resource allowed is an unmarked Bible.**

**Jeff, Maggie, and Patricia**

Jeff and Maggie have been married for 10 years. Although things have always been icy between Jeff and his mother-in-law, Patricia, the last few months have been particularly difficult. After Patricia’s husband died, she sold her house and moved in with Jeff and Maggie. What was meant to be a temporary set-up, has now gone on for ten months.

Jeff says that Patricia belittles him, is “passive aggressive,” and continually comes between he and Maggie’s marriage. Jeff complains that his mother-in-law will often “whisper” demeaning comments to Maggie: “Does he do anything to help you around here?” “I warned you not to marry such a lazy oaf.” When Jeff defends himself, Maggie sides with her mother. These confrontations usually end with Jeff quietly sulking out of the room.

Things got bad last week when Patricia drafted a daily chore list for Jeff to accomplish. To make matters worse, his 5-year-old and 7-year-old children have begun referring to him as “Lazy Jeff,” a name Jeff has heard Patricia whispered under her breath. After Maggie has hinted at the idea of a permanent stay, Jeff gave his wife a week to get Patricia out of the house before he leaves.

All parties involved are members at your church and have come to you for counseling.

**1. How would you begin the data gathering process? Describe the questions you would ask all parties. Outline what you perceive to be the possible heart issues involved.**

**2. How would you help Jeff and Maggie think through Patricia’s presence in the home?**

**3. Provide a detailed plan for restoring peace to this family?**

**Jim and Richard**

Jim and Richard have been friends since college. They are now in their early 30’s and attend the same church together with their families. Their friendship, although not perfect, has always been great. Recently, however, things have become quite difficult.

It all began when Jim corrected Richard’s son for using “foul language” at church. Richard believed the correction was harsh but Jim insisted it was merely a biblical rebuke. Jim also took this opportunity to read Ephesians 6:1-4 and emphasized Richard’s responsibility to discipline and instruct his son.

Richard responded that he “has had more than enough” of Jim and went on to list numerous ways Jim has wronged him. Richard provided examples (some from years ago) and included the following offenses: ignoring text messages, shooting down all his ideas for joint family vacations, making him look foolish in front of his wife by correcting his theology, and not assisting him when he requested help moving the church piano. In short, Richard charged Jim with being a “controlling, selfish, know-it-all.” Jim said nothing and walked away “in complete shock at Richard’s immaturity.”

It has been two months since the heated exchange and both families have been avoiding each other during Sunday morning worship. Richard and Jim are also approaching members of the church and speaking ill of the other party. To make matters worse Richard has been slandering Jim on Facebook during the past two months, saying things that are not true.

 The pastor has requested your help in mediating this situation and you have gladly agreed.

**1. How would you begin the data gathering process? Describe the questions you would ask both parties. Outline what you perceive to be the possible heart issues involved.**

**2. How would you help each party prepare for the mediation meeting?**

**3. Outline a detailed plan for the initial mediation meeting(s).**

**4. What steps would you take to follow up with both parties after the mediation meeting(s) is complete?**