



SAVAYE ACADEMY FOR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION STUDY GUIDE

FAMILY PROTECTION (IMMIGRATION AND BOUNDARIES)

Introduction:

Boundaries in marriages refer to the limits and guidelines that couples establish to protect their relationship and individual identities. They are the rules and regulations for engaging in the family relationship. Boundaries like immigration policies of a nation help to define who and what may be admitted or permitted in the family. It also promotes healthy communication, trust, and respect among family members. They provide a framework for protecting members of the family from unwanted intruders. Marital crisis could arise from disregard, disrespect, or absence of healthy boundaries in a home. When boundaries are inadequate or not well-defined, problems can arise in the marriage, such as conflicts, misunderstandings, and even infidelity. In this lesson we will be looking at three things: Introduction to Boundaries, 2. indicators of Compromised Boundaries, and 3. Setting up a family Immigration system.

What are Boundaries?

Imaginary lines that define geographical settings of countries, states or local jurisdictions.

In marriage they refer to who and how family members relate with each other. What is allowed and what is off limits.

Example of Boundaries in the Bible:

Genesis 2:16-17. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Question: What example of boundaries do you have from what we have shared so far?

What informs boundaries?

- **Meaning of Marriage** – How do you define marriage? What is God’s definition? What is accepted? Who is included? Who is excluded?
- **Cultural Expectations** – Are all cultural practices allowed? Which ones are biblically valid and which ones are not?
- **Upbringing** – “This is how we did it when I was growing up?” “This is how my parents did their marriage.”
- **Belief/Value Systems** – What do we believe about the way things work in the Bible and what society says they should work. What are our family standards? What are our values?
- **Roles Definition** – What role does each member have to play in the family? Father, mother, and children, relatives? Who holds each one accountable for doing their part?
- **Family Vision** – What is the decided direction that the family going? What are our goals and vision for the future? Are there variables? Are there constants?



Three Broad types of Boundaries:

- **Diffused/Porous** – Situations where “anything goes” there are rules that are enforced and sometimes let to fall without consequences
- **Rigid/Inflexible** – As the name indicates, this is a situation where just one person makes the rules without input from other members of the family and no consideration for their views or opinion.
- **Adaptive/Negotiated** – A situation where there is a co-created experience and everyone has equal voice in setting the limits and rules of engagement in the family relationship.

Benefits of Boundaries:

1. Establish Hierarchy – Who has the last word by way of authority and deference?
2. Establish New Beginnings – Allow adult children to have their own space and voice.
3. Protects Treasures – Spouse, especially the wife is protected from extended family interference and abuse. Children are protected from abuse and neglect.
4. Fosters Differentiation and Growth – Allow children to feel respected at their level.
5. Enhances Allocation of Resources – Funds to be provided to support each stage as needed.

Effects of Bad Boundaries:

1. Rigid boundaries stifle individuals – No flexibility for input.
2. Unilateral boundaries destroy marriages – One-sided decisions are oppressive.
3. Selectively enforced boundaries create distrust
4. Diffused/Porous – creates confusion and compromises safety

Question: How would you describe the type of boundaries you have in your family?

Steps to setting good boundaries:

1. Define your marriage – What type of marriage are you practicing?
2. Start from the innermost circle – Whose interests do we first identify and protect?
3. Set and defend family boundaries – What are our family standards?
4. Set and defend individual boundaries – What does each member of the family need from other members of the family group by way of support and validation of their personhood?

Setting up a Family Immigration System:

1. Identify Family Values.
2. Draw up a family vision and mission statement.
3. Co-Create Constitution and Rules.
4. Identify Stakeholders and entry levels – What visa status do you give strangers/relatives?
5. Provide resources and reference for further support for enforcement.

Question: What are your takeaways?