

Strained Relationships

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December 9, 2007

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they married, she learned she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. Matthew 1: 18-19

How Do Relationships Get Strained?

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. James 4: 1

I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces-quarrels, jealousy, flaring tempers, taking sides, angry words, vicious rumors, swelled heads, and general bedlam. 2 Cor. 12:20

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver. Proverbs 25: 11

How to Cope With Strained Relationships

Work on _____ behavior...not _____.

Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the hills of Judea. Luke 1:39
Because Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. Matthew 1: 19

Rethink your _____.

Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior Luke 1:46-47

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. Matthew 1:24

How to Reduce and Repair Strained Relationships

Communicate _____.

...he had in mind to divorce her quietly. Matthew 1:19

Communicate _____.

... he ... took Mary home ... Matthew 1:24

Communicate _____.

(Joseph) had in mind to divorce her ... Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea ... (Joseph) took Mary home as his wife. Matthew 1: 19, Luke 1:39, Matthew 1:24

Communicate _____.

But (Joseph) had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:25