



# **From Harm to Harmony: Overcoming Violence in the Family**

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Timothy Leadership Training Institute

[www.tlti.org](http://www.tlti.org)

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## Introduction

The manual From Harm to Harmony: Overcoming Violence in the Family is part of the first level of TLTI training.

Human history has been constantly marred by harmful and destructive deeds, often through war and civil violence. However, much destructive and violent behavior also takes place within families. This manual shows how family members often bring harm to each other and presents ways to overcome this behavior.

These problems are not always easy to discuss. However, the Bible has much to say about the problem of harm and violence in the family. Using Scripture, this manual will make you more aware of the reality of destructive family behavior so that you can resist and overcome it. Working through the manual you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to better understand the value of each family member and our responsibility to honor each one.
- Consider the effects of sin on family attitudes and behavior.
- Identify positive attitudes and speech for overcoming harmful tendencies and actions in the family.
- Explore five practical ways to overcome attitudes, words and deeds that cause harm in the family.
- Identify obstacles you may encounter in your family, church or community as you engage in overcoming harmful practices and traditions.
- Practice what is learned through Kingdom oriented action plans related to this subject.
- Continue to develop skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability.

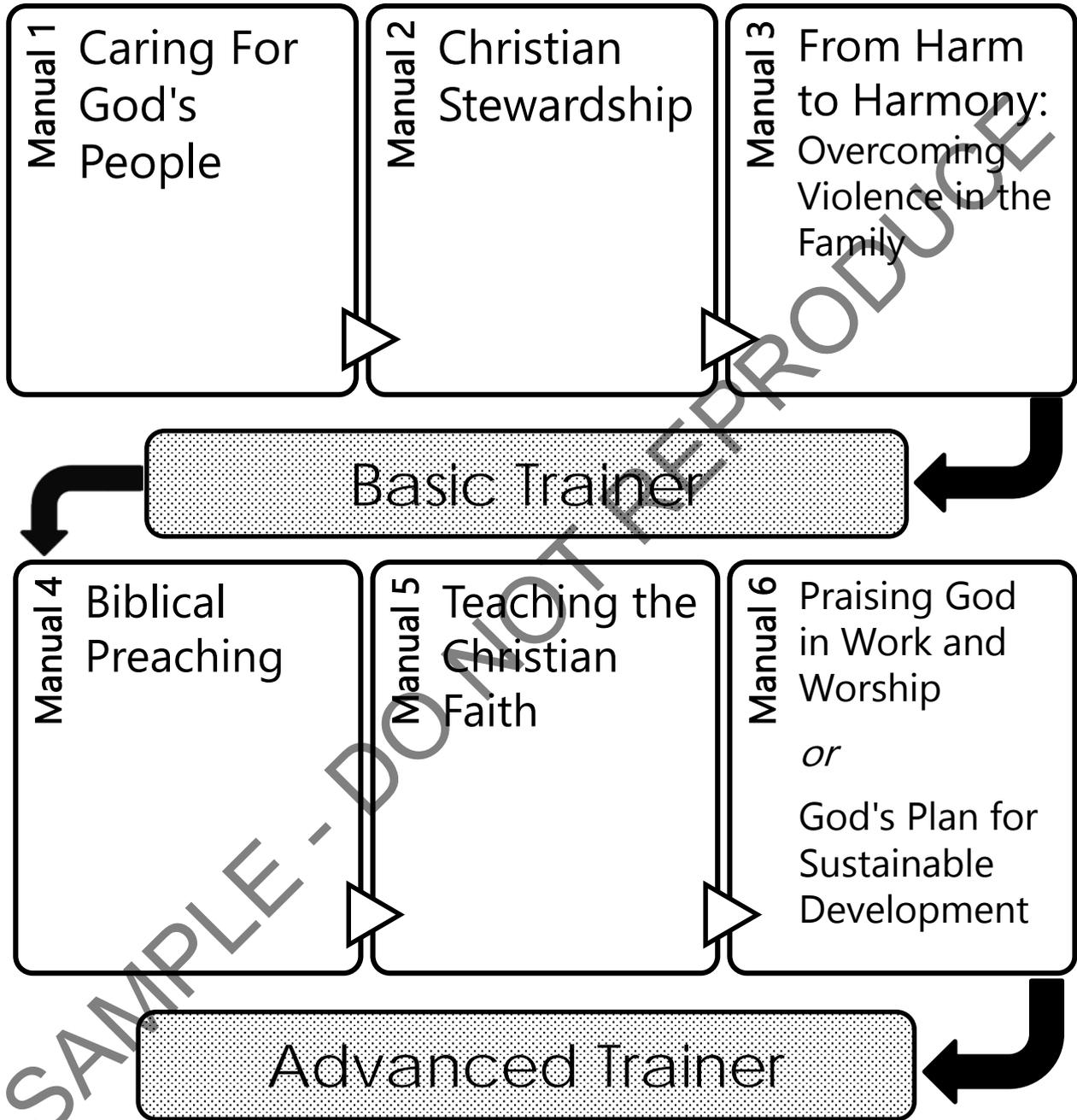
As you work through the manual you may find that some of the ideas presented are already familiar. If this is the case, think of others who you may train using the same manual in your local church or elsewhere. Whether you are a pastor, evangelist or lay leader, this manual provides you with a tool to train others on many different levels: parents, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, elders and deacons. In your group, discuss how God may be preparing you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you, once again, to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God's People: *Great Things with God*. We are confident that God can continue to bring significant changes to your church and your community through this training.



## Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Advanced Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



\*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through [reporting@tlti.org](mailto:reporting@tlti.org).



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## Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

### LATIN AMERICA

Through this training I realized how violent I had been with my wife...not with my hands but with words. I needed to confess this to her and change. Now we speak regularly together about how I hurt her with my words and how she hurts me.

Through TLT, couples in our church are learning to overcome violent behavior, to forgive each other and to be freed of resentments.

This manual helped me so much to talk with young people about the violence they have suffered and about their own violent attitudes and deeds. It takes much energy and prayer as they unburden their hearts to me.

Our pastor talked to us about how the Bible shines God's light on violence that happens in our families, even though it is painful to see. Now we are on the road to healing and change.

I am working with the men in our church to recognize and confess their violent behavior. They are responding positively, often with great emotion. And by God's grace they are changing.

### AFRICA AND ASIA

Each lesson of this module really touched me deeply. I am rededicating my marriage to God. The manual also provides me with an effective tool to assist hurting people.

As a pastor, I have seen the positive effect this manual has had on the families of our church. Reconciliation and respect in the family has had a direct result on family members to witness and demonstrate Christ's love to others. And it shows in the way our church has grown in the past 6 months!

Since I began teaching this manual, many families have changed. Couples from different churches in our area are now asking me to hold marriage seminars.

After this training, church members began to show greater respect for each other and for others around them. Long standing conflicts in our neighborhood have been resolved.



## Reminder to TLT Trainers

### Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

*TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.*

### Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

**Reminder:** The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



## LESSON 1

### Honoring God's Image in Others

1. **Genesis 1:27** *What did God say twice in verse 27?*

*Why do all human beings have great value?*

*What two kinds of human beings have great value?*

*Do you remember an experience when someone showed that you were valued by them?*

2. **Genesis 1:28** *What did God say to Adam and Eve to show that they were honored and had a place of great honor in the world?*

**Romans 12:10** *Who are Christians called to honor?*

*It is not easy to honor some kinds of people. Think about the kinds of people around you who do not seem to have much value and are not usually honored.*

3. **Genesis 4:13-15** *How do you think God felt after Cain killed his brother? What did God do to show that Cain had value even after he killed Abel?*

**2 Samuel 9:1-13** *Who did David honor?*

4. Assign individuals or pairs to read one of these texts, answer the questions and then report back to the group.

**Luke 13:10-17; 15:1-2; 18:9-14, 15-17, 35-43; 19:1-9; 20:46-21:4**

*Who did Jesus value and honor in the following texts? In these stories, who was not happy? Why not?*

5. **Proverbs 14:31** *How can we honor our great God?*

*Think again about Genesis 1:27. Why is God honored when we honor people around us who seem to be of little value?*

6. **Isaiah 29:13** *In this verse, Israel shows honor to God. But God is not pleased. Why not?*

*We can **pretend** to honor God and honor people by speaking words that don't come from our heart.*

*Has someone ever spoken kind words to you which you think are not coming from his or her heart?*

*Give examples of words that are sometimes said which don't come from the heart.*



*When we come to God in repentance and faith, the Holy Spirit teaches us to honor others*

- *by the **attitudes** of our heart,*
- *by our **words** and*
- *by our **actions**.*

*What could change when we honor one another with our attitudes, our words and our actions?*

- *What could change in our own heart?*
- *...in our family?*
- *...in our church?*
- *...in our neighborhood?*

## 7. MY PLAN

**Activity:** Write the name of one person in your family, church or community that you have not always honored in the past.

Write down an activity that you will do, before the next lesson, to show that he or she has value. What will you do to honor him or her? When will you do it?

**Goal for Kingdom Change:** Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

8. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.

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