



Highpoints Podcast is a conversational style mentoring for small church pastors and leaders who desire personal growth and ministry development

FACE TO FACE

A young couple came into my office one afternoon after filing for divorce but realized it wasn't what either one of them wanted. They knew they needed to change but wasn't for sure where to start. It wasn't finances, it wasn't sex and it wasn't the children, they didn't know how to express their feelings without getting into a fight. Their disagreements were animated with arms flying, cursing, accusations and demands. The problem that stood out to both was evident, we do not know how to communicate. For the twelve years we have been married, we have always had problems talking to each other.

To get them started I gave them an index card with the word, FACE on it. I created a simple acronym to remind them of how to communicate. The index card could be kept in a purse or shirt pocket and they reviewed the card when they began their conversation. After praying hard, God and the card has been at work.

FACE

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is the grand key that opens every door and I challenged the couple to begin every conversation, face to face, with a forgiving attitude. I am not

a marriage counselor, but I realize when a couple begins their conversation looking each other in the eye and saying, "I forgive you." Immediately the defense is lessened, and the way is paved for a decent discussion. I cautioned them, "If it doesn't work or the discussion is heated, go back to F and repeat giving and asking for forgiveness.

Forgive each other face to face.

Accountability.

Simply, "Show me your phone." I challenged the couple to delete any communication and contacts interfering with their marriage. Either one could ask for the other's phone scanning emails, texts, photos, and social media.

Financial accountability was mentioned. Both should be financially accountable to the other. Not every dime but a renewed plan for eliminating debt and saving for big items would relieve stress and minimize financial disagreements.

Prayer accountability was a definite. Thank God, in prayer, for your spouse. Ask God to create in you a right spirit, to be the best husband or the best wife.

Be accountable to each other face to face.

Commitment

"I am committed to make this marriage work."

"My conversation will be Christlike."

"I am yours and yours only."

"I am attracted to no one but you."

"I am looking forward to spending the rest of my life with you."

Commit to each other face to face.

Encourage

Life is filled with ups and downs; work can be a drain and life's pressures surmounting. We need to come to a joy filled home with loads of encouragement.

Text a scripture through the day to encourage your spouse. Start the day with a hug and pray for each other. Call and check on your spouse, especially when you are travelling.

Encourage each other face to face.

Life is hard and marriage is often difficult.

begin again, face to face.

HIGHPOINTS PODCAST weekly mentoring, available on Apple Podcast, Spotify, Sticher, IHeartRadio and other podcast platforms.

BLOG *laudell.wordpress.com* Read and download the Highpoint Podcast notes.

LIFT, Living in Fullness Today at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Church Source, Christian Book Distributor, Walmart, and other book retailers.

Copyright by Jim Laudell. Materials may not be copied, reproduced, or distributed without the express written permission from the author. You may share on Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media while giving credit to the author. This post should not be construed as medical, legal, or professional counselling.