

English Discussion Group

Dad's Rocky Relationship

8:00 p.m. In-Person and on Zoom

Meeting ID: 251 455 814 Passcode: 522082

Warm up: Think about when you were around 16; what was the best thing about your father or mother? (Keep answers short)

Phrases & idioms in the story: [sth = something; sb = somebody]

a rocky relationship = an unstable or insecure relationship between two people

retreat (v) = move away from (or hide from) a difficult or uncomfortable situation

basement = a room or area in a building that is under the level of the ground; this often includes a game or TV room

sb assumes the role of = sb takes over another person's responsibilities

sb puts up with sb/sth = sb tolerates sb/sth; sb endures sb/sth

to manipulate = to work skillfully with information, systems, emotions, etc., to achieve the result that you want (often considered "negative" except in a medical context)

back down = give in to sb; stop opposing sb

get back together = restore a broken relationship

sb/sth gets on sb's nerves = sb/sth really bothers/annoys sb; sb/sth drives sb crazy

he wants his dad back = he wants the previously close relationship he had with his dad

sth should give sb a clue = sth should help sb clearly see the truth

get sth through sb's head; get it through sb's head = convince sb that sth is true

sth is up to sb = sb is responsible to make a decision about sth

sb needs/has to deal with sth/sb = sb must solve a problem

the answer = the solution to a problem

Jimmy is 16 and lives with his dad Eddie and Eddie's girlfriend Sandra. Eddie and Sandra have broken up four times, causing Eddie and his son Jimmy to retreat to the basement where they live the peaceful, happy life they did before Sandra moved in. When Eddie and Sandra first started dating, she was very nice, and Jimmy liked her. However, because Jimmy's mom is gone, Sandra decided to assume the role of "mother" after she moved in. At first, Jimmy put up with this, but he doesn't think Sandra has the right to make decisions about him just because he no longer has a mother. Jimmy's father has said repeatedly that he doesn't want to continue a relationship with Sandra, but she always manipulates him into backing down and getting back together. Not only does Sandra get on Jimmy's nerves, she also treats Eddie terribly, and it breaks Jimmy's heart because he knows his father deserves better.

Eddie's personality changes when he's with her. He gets mean and blames their problems on Jimmy, because that's what Sandra does. Jimmy knows he's not responsible for this situation, but Sandra makes him feel like he is. Jimmy needs a stable home, and he just wants his dad back.

Finally, Jimmy talked with his favorite uncle, who advised Jimmy to tell his father how he really feels. Eddie and Sandra have broken up four times, which should give Eddie a clue that this relationship has serious problems. "I don't know why my brother can't get it through his head that letting Sandra live with y'all isn't a healthy relationship for either you or Eddie," Jimmy's uncle said. In the end, his uncle said it's up to Eddie to deal with this problem, and hiding in the basement isn't the answer.

Questions: *(Try to use a term from this lesson in your answers)*

1. Briefly, tell us what Jimmy means when he says, "I just want my dad back."
 2. What is your opinion of the father, Eddie? Why?
 3. What is your opinion of Sandra? Why?
 4. While reading this story, did you think that Jimmy's parents are divorced, or that Jimmy's mother has died? Why do you think this way?
 5. If Eddie or his 16-year-old son Jimmy, asked you for advice, what would you tell him? Explain.
 6. Share about a problem you had to deal with. How did you deal with it? How satisfied were you with the result? Why?
 7. What are 2-3 reasons people sometimes back down in a situation, even though they don't want to back down? Share one example.
 8. Why do some people put up with a bad relationship even though they don't want to be in that relationship? Explain.
 9. What 2-3 qualities are most important to you in any close relationship? Explain why they are so important to you.
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If you have more time, read and discuss this proverb from the Bible: ~ "He who finds a true and faithful wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor and approval from the Lord.." (Prov 18:22 AMP) ~ Do you agree? Can you substitute the word "husband" in place of "wife"? What other words might you change in this sentence (if you substitute "husband" for "wife")?

Exercise: *Each student should pick one expression or vocabulary term from today's lesson, and create a sentence with it.*

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Oct 8, 2022 ~ **Dad's Rocky Relationship** (Lesson cez56)

Warm up: At age 16; what was the best thing about your father or mother? (Keep answers short)

Phrases & idioms in the story: [sth = something; sb = somebody]

- a. a rocky relationship = an unstable or insecure relationship between two people
 - b. retreat (v) = move away from (or hide from) a difficult or uncomfortable situation
 - c. basement = a room or area in a building that is under the level of the ground; this often includes a game or TV room
 - d. sb assumes the role of = sb takes over another person's responsibilities
 - e. to manipulate = to work skillfully with information, systems, emotions, etc., to achieve the result that you want (often considered "negative" except in a medical context)
 - f. get back together = restore a broken relationship
 - g. he wants his dad back = he wants the previously close relationship he had with his dad
 - h. sb needs/has to deal with sth/sb = sb must solve a problem
 - i. the answer = the solution to a problem
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Jimmy is 16 and lives with his dad Eddie and Eddie's girlfriend Sandra. Eddie and Sandra have broken up four times, causing Eddie and his son Jimmy to retreat to the basement where they live the peaceful, happy life they did before Sandra moved in.

When Eddie and Sandra first started dating, she was very nice, and Jimmy liked her. However, because Jimmy's mom is gone, Sandra decided to assume the role of "mother" after she moved in. Jimmy doesn't think Sandra has the right to make decisions about him just because he no longer has a mother. Jimmy's father has said repeatedly that he doesn't want to continue a relationship with Sandra, but she always manipulates him into getting back together. Sandra also treats Eddie terribly, and it breaks Jimmy's heart because he knows his father deserves better.

Eddie's personality changes when he's with Sandra. He gets mean and blames Jimmy for their problems. Jimmy needs a stable home, and he just wants his dad back.

Finally, Jimmy talked with his favorite uncle, who advised Jimmy to tell his father how he really feels. Knowing about the break-ups, Jimmy's uncle thinks that Eddie should understand that this isn't a healthy relationship for either father or son. Jimmy's uncle said that Eddie must decide how to deal with this problem, and retreating to the basement isn't the answer.

Questions: (Try to use a term from this lesson in your answers)

1. Briefly, tell us what Jimmy means when he says, "I just want my dad back."
2. What is your opinion of the father, Eddie? Why?
3. What is your opinion of Sandra? Why?
4. If Eddie or his 16-year-old son Jimmy, asked you for advice, what would you tell him? Explain.
5. Share about a problem you had to deal with. How did you deal with it? How satisfied were you with the result? Why?

6. What are 2-3 reasons people sometimes “get back together,” even though they don’t really enjoy this relationship? Share one example.
 7. What 2-3 qualities are most important to you in any close relationship? Explain why they are so important to you.
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Exercise: *Each student should pick one expression or vocabulary term from today’s lesson, and create a sentence with it.*

If you have more time, read and discuss this proverb from the Bible: ~ “He who finds a true and faithful wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor and approval from the Lord.” (Prov 18:22 AMP) ~ Do you agree? Explain. If we rewrite this to say: “He who finds a true and faithful husband finds a good thing...”, do you agree? Explain.