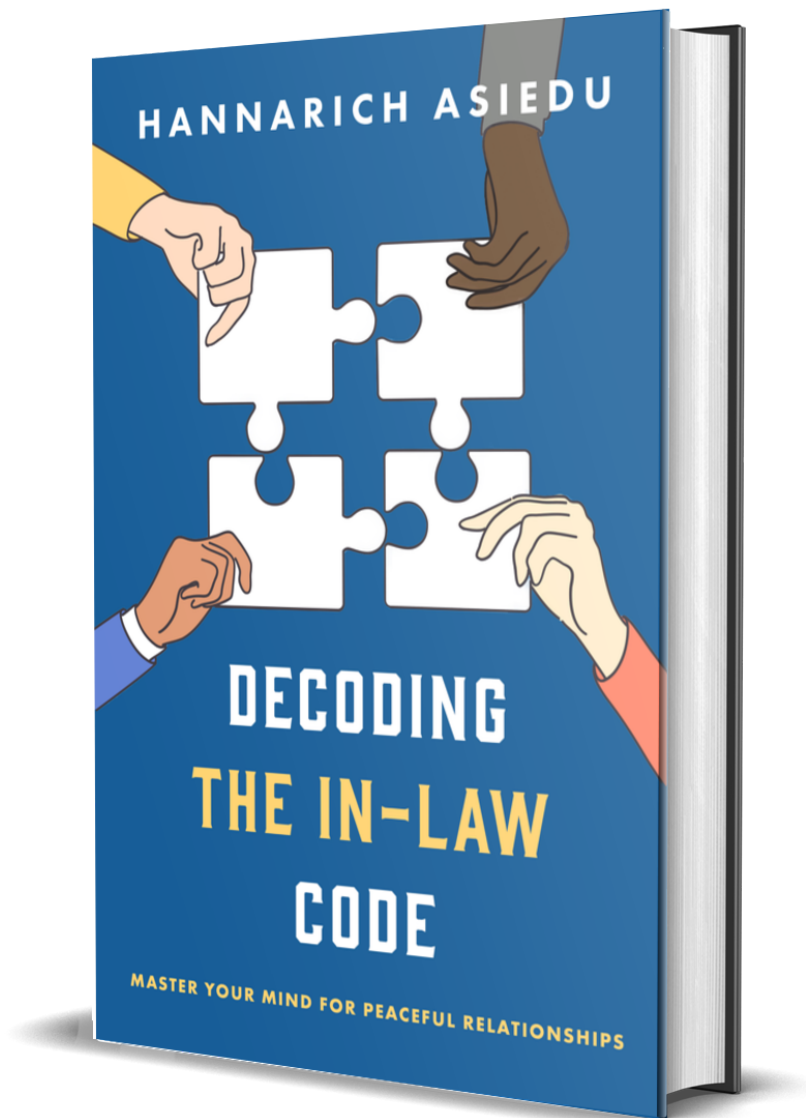


STUDY QUESTIONS

# Decoding The In-Law Code

---



By Hannarich Asiedu

---

# Study Questions

This study aims to elicit questions, answers, and conversations about the in-law problem. Most of the answers to the questions can be found in the "Decoding the In-Law Code" book.

As we have these conversations, we hope that it will allow people to talk about an otherwise very "taboo" topic of in-law relations and find practical, scriptural advice to tackle the challenge.

The questions are divided categorically into chapters. Answers to each chapter's questions can be found in the same chapter of the book.

## Chapter One - Admitting

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "IN-LAW."
2. What have your experiences been with your In-Law relations?
3. What is the situation of friends and family with their in-laws?
4. What category would you place your in-laws in?
5. Admitting that we have problems with our in-laws is often a challenge. In your understanding, why is this often so?

# Study Questions

## Chapter Two - Call a Spade a Spade

1. Marriage unites two families; This is the popular saying. But is this the norm in reality in your experience and that of friends and family?
2. How much of your parents-in-law's past would you say you know very well?
3. Do you think it is necessary to learn more about your in-laws, upbringing, marriage, even childbirth stories, etc.?
4. Would you "pretend" to love your in-laws when you actually don't? If yes, why, and if no, why not?
5. What came to mind when you first saw the chapter "Fake it till you Make it" on Page 12? Do you agree with that point? Why and why not?

## Chapter Three - Shout the Praise

1. Do you tell your parents when your spouse does some nice things for you or the kids? Do you think this is necessary?
2. How often do you think about death?
3. How much older are your in-laws compared to you? (ask participants to calculate their age versus that of their in-laws) . What is the age difference between participants and their in-laws? All things being equal and using our biological calendar, who is closest to death?
4. How has the realization of the age difference between you and your in-laws changed your mindset
5. In your opinion, do you think your spouse is overly dependent on their parents? Do you think they are still a mommy or daddy's boy or girl?
6. How has "All Grown Up" changed your perception of how you see your spouse's relationship with their parent?

# Study Questions

## Chapter Four - The Tolerance Hat

1. Do you think you tolerate your in-laws? If yes, how so? If not, how so? Any examples?
2. Do you sometimes feel like you are in competition with your in-laws on the affection and love of your spouse? Parent in-laws and sibling in-laws alike?
3. How was your relationship with your siblings after you got married? Did you notice a change? Was it a positive or a negative one?
4. What is the relationship between your spouse and his siblings? Did you notice a change? Was it a positive or a negative one?
5. Do you find it easier to forgive your friends or even strangers when they wrong you than to forgive your in-laws?
6. Do you feel you are holding on to any past hurts from your in-laws?
7. Take the "forgiveness test" in chapter 4, page 28 of "Decoding the In-law Code."

## Chapter Five - All Hands Are Not Equal

1. What does fairness mean to you? Do you think your in-laws and your parents should be treated in the same manner to bring about fairness?
2. Are your parents and the parents of your spouse on good terms? Which of these one words would you use to describe their relationship? Cordial? Agreeable? Close? Enjoy? Happy? Toxic? Anger? Hatred? Nonchalant? Respectable? (let participants write words anonymously, collect the total, and determine the percentage for all the words)
3. Would you say your siblings' in-laws have the same temperaments as you? Do they behave in the same ways you do?
4. Would you say your sibling-in-law is your friend?
5. Would you say you had some expectations of your in-laws that have been met or unmet?
6. Do you often expect gratitude? When not shown to you, how do you often react?

# Study Questions

## Chapter Six - When It's Still Not Working

1. In your opinion, what do you think is the most important action you have taken to try to form a peaceful relationship with your in-laws? Did it work? Why or why not?
2. How often do you think you prayed for your in-laws or your relationship with them, specifically in the past year? Less than five times? Less than ten times? Less than 20 times? (participants should be asked to vote by a show of hands)
3. Maybe you have prayed and prayed, but you still can't seem to get a grip on your relationship with your in-laws; what then? Page 52
4. Assuming your parents-in-law may never change? Somehow it has been foretold to you that this is precisely how they will relate with you till their death. So, in this instance, what will you do? Will you implement the Four Ps?
5. Which of the Four Ps do you find to be most challenging? Why is this so?

## Chapter Seven - Living With In-Laws

1. Have you ever lived with your in-laws? When was the longest/ shortest period you lived with them?
2. Will you do so again based on how things went while they visited?
3. Did you put measures to ensure that their next visit is better than the previous one? Example mending misunderstandings, setting boundaries, etc
4. What were some of the pre-checks you put in place before your in-laws' visit? For example, did you pray about the visit? Plan the duration? Determine who does what household chores- cleaning, laundry, etc.?
5. Do you feel your family had to alter their lifestyle during your in-laws' visit?
6. Did you think their visit with you was beneficial? For example, if you have kids, did you use the free time their visit may have afforded you?
7. Did you and your spouse take the time to decide, assess, etc., at the end of their visit?

# Study Questions

## Chapter Eight - Conversation Starters

1. What topics of discussion do you and your in-laws often have?
2. Do you find it challenging to come up with topics to create a conversation with your in-laws?
3. What activities do you usually engage in with your in-laws?
4. What activities do your kids often do with their grandparents?
5. Are your in-laws / your parents' technology savvy?
6. What are some of the advantages of technology regarding your communication with your in-laws?
7. What are some of the challenges that have come up with technology and your in-laws?
8. Do you feel like your in-laws may be having a problematic timing with their old ages? In what ways?

## Chapter Nine - Death of My Mother-In-Law

1. Are your in-laws alive?
2. Are your parents alive?
3. If your in-laws would pass away today, what is the one thing you wish you could do with or for them before their passing?
4. How do you think you can show your support to your spouse when their parent passes away?
5. Do you think you will be affected by the loss of your in-law?
6. Do you think your marriage will be affected by the loss?

# Study Questions

## Chapter Ten - Overlooked Sources of Blessing

1. Do you think there may be blessings directly or indirectly associated with your relationship with your in-laws?
2. Do you honestly feel you have been giving excuses on ways you could contribute to a better relationship with your in-laws? Page 104
3. Which of the blessings mentioned in this chapter do you feel you particularly need in this season of your life?

## Chapter Eleven - Five Tips To A Better Marriage

1. What are some of the ways you keep your marriage youthful and fun? (discuss answers by participants)
2. Would they mention your name if your spouse was asked who their number one cheerleader was?
3. What does choosing your battles look like for you in your marriage?
4. Do you see your marriage as a ministry? In what ways do you think you can make your marriage more ministry-focused?
5. What are some of the things you or your spouse did when dating that you can still try to do again now?

## Chapter Twelve - You Are Not Alone

1. How common do you think in-law problems are among different world cultures? (40%? 50%?60%?) Page 135- 60%

## The Alter Call

1. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. Do you want to renew your relationship with Jesus Christ?