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Reconciliation in Religious Families

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Reconciliation in Religious Families

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CONTEXTS
- Conflicts
- Differences
- Mistakes
- Selfishness
- Everyday Life
- Irritations
- Marital Struggles
- Relational Distance

SPIRITUAL
- Praying to God for help

RELATIONAL
- Forgiving and being forgiven

PERSONAL
- Admitting mistakes and taking responsibility

PRACTICAL
- Working to fix problems and make amends

MOTIVATIONS
- Religious beliefs
- Seeing a bigger picture
- Responding to God's Love

BENEFITS
- Allows us to let go
- Keeps us together
- Gives us hope
- Helps us change
- Heals relationships
- Strengthens marriage

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:
What circumstances lead to a need for reconciliation in religious families?
What motivates religious families to reconcile?
How do religious families reconcile?
What benefits do religious families receive from reconciling?

ABSTRACT
How do religious families resolve conflict and heal relationships? Through an in-depth study of interviews with 198 highly religious families, we explored motivations, processes, and outcomes of reconciliation. Through this analysis we have identified spiritual, relational, personal and practical processes, in the context of everyday family life, that help families strengthen relationships and resolve differences.

METHODS
Using a team-based approach to data analysis and coding, 152 accounts of repentance and/or reconciliation were identified in qualitative interviews with 198 families from the American Families of Faith (AFF) project (Marks 2015). An in-depth analysis of these pre-identified quotes revealed a process of reconciliation within family—including contexts, motivations, and benefits of reconciliation.