

## Secret of happy relationship

Good morning, teachers and students. Today, the topic that I want to share with you is: Secret of happy relationship.

First of all, I would like to share with you a **“Burnt Pie Story”**. My mother always cooked tasty food. But one day, she put a burnt pie in front of my father. Not just a little burnt but, black as coal. I waited to see what Daddy would say. But, he just ate the pie and asked, “How was your day?” Then I heard my mother apologize to him for his supper. I’ll never forget his response, “Darling, I liked your pie.” Later, I asked him if he had told the truth. He put his arm on my shoulder and said, **“We all make mistakes. We should not focus on mistakes but, support those we love.” That is the secret of long and happy relationship.**

Boys and girls, I learn several messages and insights from this simple story. **Firstly, everyone would make mistakes.** For example, the mother in the story has made a burnt pie. You and I will also make mistakes.

**Secondly, we make mistakes not because we are stupid. It may be due to a lot of reasons.** For example, we are tired and we have a lot of things to handle at that moment. Yes, we make mistakes, but deep inside our heart, we need others’ understanding and acceptance.

**Thirdly, to handle a relationship, we can have different choices and approaches. We can choose to complain** by saying “What’s happened with you?” or “Why are you so careless and make such a burnt pie?” The result is obvious. The mother would be hurt and this will result in an unhappy relationship. But there is another way and response, like the father’s one. He **chooses to accept** the pie and concerns the feeling of his wife by asking her, “How is your day?” This in fact implies asking “Are you fine? Do you have any difficulties today? Can I help you?” This results in the mother’s apology and a happy relationship.

Boys and girls, remember the last saying of the father, “We all make

mistakes. We should not focus on mistakes but, support those we love.” This is really the secret of long and happy relationship. Try to focus ourselves on people, rather than mistakes and things. Try to focus ourselves on those we love, but not mistakes. This will result in long and happy relationship. According to the dictionary, the word “focus” means “giving attention, effort to one particular subject, situation or person rather than another” and “adjust your eyes so that things can be seen clearly”. So, you have to adjust your eyes and mindset so that your concern is on people, but not the mistakes that he/she has committed.

In the Bible Gospel of Matthew Chapter 7 Verse 12, Jesus said, “do to others what you would have them do to you.” (你們願意人怎樣待你們，你們也要怎樣待人) In other words, if you want others not to focus on your mistakes and treat you well, you should treat others well first by not focusing on their mistakes.