

Awkward Family Photos

Awkward: Lacking skill, grace or ease in movement.

Lacking social graces or manners.

Not well planned or designed for easy or effective use.

Requires caution; somewhat hazardous: hard to deal with.

✓ **Feel the distance.**

*"My relatives stay **far away**, and my friends have turned against me." Job 19:13 NLT*

✓ **Fear the disturbance.**

*"Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in **fear**, unsure if you will survive." Deuteronomy 28:66 NLT*

✓ **Find everything more difficult.**

*"An offended friend is **harder** to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars." Proverbs 18:19 NLT*

*"But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do **something new**. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and owls, too, for giving them water in the desert. Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed." Isaiah 43:18-20 NLT*

Fixing The Awkward

Leaders see the awkward and fix it.

1. Be a leader.

*"Wise words **satisfy** like a good meal; the right words bring **satisfaction**." Proverbs 18:20 NLT*

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and **those who love it** will eat its fruit."
Proverbs 18:21 NIV*

*"Leadership **begins** with your example but often **ends** with your mouth."*

2. Fix the awkward.

*"Forgiveness is **releasing** a prisoner and **realizing** the prisoner was you." – Martin Luther*

*"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you**, live at peace with everyone."
Romans 12:16-18 NIV*

3. Set boundaries.

*"When you enter the home, **give it your blessing**. If the household is worthy, **let your peace come upon it**. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off** the dust from your feet."
Matthew 10:12-14 NLT/NKJV*

*"You get what you **tolerate**." – Henry Cloud, Boundaries*

4. See them through the eyes of God.

*"You can be their **victim** or their **voice** of hope."*

*"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them** because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers (leaders) are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Matthew 9:35-38 NLT*