

TRUST ISSUES

SCENARIO FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

1. ALEX & VICKY

Vicky sat at the kitchen table, stunned and hurt. Her 4 year old marriage to Alex, on which she had pinned so many hopes and dreams, seemed false. She had just heard from a friend that Alex had been seen lunching with an old girlfriend.

When Vicky asked why he hadn't mentioned it to her, his reply was defensive: "I knew you would freak out, like you're doing now." Alex could not see how that omission had undermined Vicky's trust in him, his character and their relationship.

What are the trust issues here? (on both parts).

2. LUKE & JADE

Luke and Jade are a happily married with teenage children. They operate 100% joint finance, which Luke manages, being the more financially experienced. Luke told Jade about a business opportunity abroad with a couple of his friends. After going over the paper work, she agreed that they would invest in the business.

Luke travelled abroad to close the deal. Whilst there, Luke needed some documents. He called Jade to look in his desk where he kept important documents. It was whilst checking that she saw another document with Luke & Betty's names on. This caught her attention because Betty was Luke's ex from secondary school days.

To cut the long story short, the so called friends Luke was investing with happened to be Betty. When she confronted him, he admitted to the business partnership, but swore over his life that they were not having an affair. He said he knew Jade might not agree to the deal if he had told her it was Betty, however the deal was quite viable and he was doing it for the family anyway.

3. TONY & SANDRA

Tony shut the bedroom door. He sat on the bed stunned and shocked. How could Sandra have hidden this from him all these 5 years of their marriage? He was made to believe that she had a University degree in Pharmacy.

It was while they had been fasting and praying about about the lack of promotion at her place of work, that it came to light that Sandra only had an OND degree and was really a chemist assistant. He wondered if there were some other things that she was keeping from him.

4. YINKA & ONOME

Yinka is married to a very friendly, nice but chatty Onome. Onome loves to gist big time. Yinka then found out that Onome had carelessly shared painful & vital information about his sister's surrogate child with one of her friends.

Though she apologised, this has made Yinka to lose confidence in her ability to keep information. He is wondering what other information she had 'leaked out' about himself or other members of the family. Onome assures him that this was the only lapse and it would not happen again. He doesn't know what to believe

What are the trust issues in this case?

5. JAMES & WENDY

James is not very happy with his wife, Wendy. For the past 2 years he has been the only one providing for the family as Wendy was still attending school and looking after the twins. Due to her financial acumen, he had given her complete access to all the family accounts. He has just discovered that she has been diverting funds from their joint account to a personal account to pay for the school fees of her sister's children without his knowledge.

All the while he was made to believe she was putting money aside as educational fund for their own children. She knew that it has been a difficult 2 years for the family and particularly himself as he had to forgo a lot of things to make ends meet. How could she deceitfully prioritise another family above theirs?

6. JOHN & MARY

John and Mary operate a convenient 50-50 financial responsibilities where each has allocated financial responsibility for the various bills. Mary pays the Council Tax, Child minder and internet subscription bills. On one of John's day off, he had balliffs come to the house, and discovered that Mary had not been paying Council Tax, and a few utility bills, and she has been to Dubai twice that year for her friends 40th birthday.

The childminder also complained to John when he went to pick up the twins that Mary regularly comes late to pick up the kids, and has not settled the resulting late charges applied to the fees for months. This is the first John is aware of the financial lapses and is feeling quite insecure as he, being financially astute, has never been late on a payment in his life