



Icebreaker

How would you use \$1 million to change the world? After everyone has a chance to share, ask the same question about \$100.

Conversation Starters

1. Why did Dave begin by asking his listeners to give themselves lots of grace, gentleness and respect around the issue of living with tension in parenting?
2. Dave shared his old and new definition of spiritual maturity. Have a little discussion about the two definitions.
 - a. Old Definition - **Spiritual Maturity** is knowing for certain the right answers to important questions and being able to advise others of those answers.
 - b. New Definition - **Spiritual Maturity** is living and loving in tension with others who think, feel and believe differently than I do and trusting God for outcomes in our relationship and in others' lives. "Most of following Jesus is not about having all the right answers."
3. Jesus lived with lots of tension. Choose one of the following scripture passages to read aloud and explore the relationship tensions Jesus experienced.
 - Mark 13:3-4 and 33
 - Luke 22: 42-44
 - Matthew 7:1-3
4. If you have multiple children, how are each of them different from each other? Have you discovered some ways in which they are very different from you?
5. Which of the following have caused tension in terms of parenting? If you have a partner in parenting what issues cause tension between you?
 - a. The tension between when to ignore behavior, encourage behavior or correct behavior in my children.
 - b. The tension between when I (as parent) know better and I (as parent) need to let my children figure it out.
 - c. The tension between desperately wanting to give them faith and letting them have their own journey.
 - d. The tension between motivating them to do their best and simply loving them.
 - e. The tension of raising very different children who are very different from each other and the parents.
6. Which of the following strategic practices will you try to help you deal with relationship tensions?
 - a. Give away the last word.
 - b. Make a list of at least 10 good things to celebrate about each child or person in your

family.

- c. Leave the nuts out of the brownies for your kids who don't like nuts.
- d. Practice allowing cherished ideas to be challenged.
- e. Waiting to be asked for your opinion.