



**Romans 12: 10-15** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

## Icebreaker

Share about a time you felt cherished in your life. Cherish = to protect and care for someone lovingly.

## Conversation Starters

1. How does your response to Romans 12:10-15 change when you add the word "parents" to the beginning and directed towards those raising children?
2. Read Romans 12:10-15 contains many phrases and consider what this looks like in your life. Which come easy to you? Which are more difficult? What specifically does "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" make you think about or feel?
3. **Proverbs 22:6** Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Dave encouraged us to see this as an encouragement to figure out "the way each one of our children are designed to go by God and to encourage them in that way.
  - a. Describe one unique quality you perceive in each of your children?
4. Describe one unique and developing passion you perceive in each of your children?
5. What is a distinct question or need that one of your children has at this stage in their journey? How can you think about what your child needs from you in this stage?
  - a. Toddlers - Who is in charge?
  - b. Elementary - How do things work? Need parents who tie learning in ch
  - c. Jr. High/Middle School - How do I fit in?
  - d. High School - Who am I?
  - e. College Age - How do I get through the doors of adulthood?
6. What scares you about the future as you raise your children? How will you learn to parent without fear as your primary motivator?
7. Can you describe a parenting "fail" that you can now laugh about?
8. Dave said, "all families will face a curveball at some point." Did your family growing up receive a curveball, and/or has your current family experienced a curveball? **Watch Dave's teaching from 17:35 - 23:54.**
9. Which of these statements that are true of every family, surprises or encourages you?
  - a. Your kids faith will be different from yours.
  - b. Internal faith is more important than external behaviors.
  - c. Being a non-anxious presence in your kid's life is a powerful gift.
  - d. Surrender your child to Jesus often. Whisper little truths about God and our kids, it will change your heart.

