



1 Cor. 9:19-23 (The Message) Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!

Icebreaker

1. Do you have a trampoline story?

Conversation Starters

1. How has the Pandemic increased tension for you? For you kids? For your family?
2. Jeff shared the following quote, “The best stories are driven forward by conflict, tension and high stakes.” Think of your favorite stories. Is this quote true?
3. Do you ever think of your life and the people in your life as part of a great story?

Have someone read the Scripture at the top of the page before you continue.

Three Actions Steps for living with Tension

4. **Be WITH people-**

- a. Is there a better way to be with people in tension than to serve that person?
- b. Why is it so hard to serve people you disagree with, that you might not really like?

5. **Accept others-**

- a. Can you think of a time you accepted someone with whom you experienced a lot of tension?
- b. Did you enter their world even when you couldn't embrace their way of life?
- c. How do you choose to be loving instead of judging?
- d. Do you agree that loving captures hearts where judging cannot?
- e. Has someone done this for you?

6. **Be a learner-**

- a. Talk about something you have tried to experience from another persons' point of view.
- b. How have you been able to develop empathy for others in the past?
- c. What is required for you to learn something new? How open on a scale of 1 to 10 are you to learning something new right now?
- d. **Jeff challenged us with the following two statements.** 1 Cor. 8:1 “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.” AND “It's more important to make a connection than to make a point.” How do you internalize these two statements? Why does it matter?

Spiritual Maturity = Living peacefully with others who think, live and believe differently from us.
Loving them as Jesus loved.