



ICEBREAKER -Would you rather have endless winter or an endless soundtrack of Spongebob playing in the background of your mind?

Have someone read the Story of the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11

1. "Family relationships are complicated and require great patience." Dave Bartlett

Dave shared that he loves to take action first and think later. This quality in him requires patience from family members who prefer to think first and then act.

- What quality in you requires patience from others?
- Describe a time someone waited for you in the middle of pain, hurt or disappointment.
 - If you can't think of a time how would it have changed your story if you knew someone like the father in this story was patiently waiting for you?
- In what ways is it (or not) my expectation to experience hurt and disappointment in my family and how might I need to reset my expectations to include handling hurt and disappointment?

2. "If your faith doesn't work at home, it doesn't work." Dave Bartlett

- What are the repercussions of a faith that doesn't work at home?
- For different people in the home, kids, partners, neighbors, pets?
- Have you experienced the reality of a faith that did or didn't work at home? What was it like?
- What do you do when you realize your faith is making you less like the father in Luke 15?

3. "So much of the work of family is keeping my inside motivation correct."

- Older son was doing all the right things for the wrong reasons. **Can you relate?**

Luke 15:29-30 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

- How does a person learn to love without resentment over time?
- Many of the things in life that cause resentment to build are things we actually chose. What are some examples? # of kids, work decisions, purchases.
- We live in a broken world. Fine line between seeing today as a day filled with problems and seeing today as full of opportunities. How do you navigate this fine line?

4. "We all have both sons inside us, both sons desperately need the father (God)."

- Listen to the last few minutes ([26:30 to the end](#)) of Dave's teaching when he retold the story of a little boy with peanut fingers playing chopsticks who was rescued by Ignace Paderuski. Most days in doing family we are the little boy, playing chopsticks with peanut butter fingers!! How are you like that little boy?