



Family Discussion Guide

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FEATURING

Love Different

SPEAK LOVE



Why is Neque still haunted by the pastor's actions toward him, even though it happened many years ago? What dynamics had to be in place for Neque's confrontation with the pastor to result in reconciliation and healing? Thinking back on your own life, share a time when you said something to someone that you desperately wish you could take back.



Read James 3:2-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; and 1 John 3:18-19



What is it about words that makes them so powerful? Why is it so difficult to control what comes out of our mouths? Why do you think Paul says that spiritual gifts, knowledge, faith, or overwhelming generosity mean nothing if they don't proceed out of love? What changes can we enact to control what we say, and act in a loving way toward others?

PARTIALITY



Beyond the obvious, what is it that makes Neque's experience of the racial divide distinct from Lindsay's? What does each bring to their work and friendship that makes each of their lives better? How do they both help each other when mistakes are made at work or home?



Read James 2:1-9 and Romans 12:4-5



How do the ideas regarding partiality about social status in this passage also relate to issues of race? How can problems of partiality affect those who are the targets of discrimination, as well as the perpetrators? How does changing our perspective from competitor to teammate overcome a host of difficulties?

HUSBANDS/WIVES



How can you tell that Neque has grown cold toward his wife, Lisa? How would you describe Lisa's attitude toward her husband? Why is the interplay between Neque's attitude and behavior and Lisa's response ultimately a recipe for marital disaster?



Read Ephesians 5:22-33



Given our contemporary culture, which of these commands are the most difficult to follow? What kinds of behaviors or attitudes get in the way of following these commands? What are practical ways husbands can show sacrificial love toward their wives? How can wives show respect for their husbands, even at times they don't think he "deserves" it?

DISCIPLINE



What do you think is at the heart of Brandon's disrespect of his mother and other adults? Why do you think Lindsay doesn't do more to discipline him when he acts out? How could Brandon's and Lindsay's behaviors be reinforcing one another's actions, making them worse over time?



Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Hebrews 12:4-11



What do children learn by obeying their parents? How does the restriction Paul makes in Ephesians affect the way we should parent our children? What is the motivation behind discipline and how should it be carried out? How do our parent/child relationships help us to better understand our relationship with God?