

**1. What was the best part of your week? Worst part?**

**2. Discipleship is a process that takes time. Where are you in the process? What evidence do you see that you have grown over the past year?**

**3. Read James 3:13-18 — What differences are there between earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom? What aspect of Godly wisdom described here do you struggle the most with? Based on this passage, what are some core values you feel would be best to lead your family in committing to?**

- Wisdom demonstrated in “bitter envy and selfish ambition” does not come from God. This counterfeit wisdom is earthly—human with human limitations. Second, false wisdom is sensual; it is concerned with appetites and desires. Instead of following the Holy Spirit, a person with this wisdom is mastered by unregenerate human nature. Third, such wisdom is demonic; evil is its source and it serves evil.
- Genuine wisdom finds its source in God. His wisdom is free from fault. People with this wisdom avoid jealousy, self-promotion, and other sins that contaminate life. It is peace-loving; gentle, easy to be entreated; it is compliant; it is easily persuaded. It is full of mercy—in forgiveness and in acts of kindness to needy people. Its bountiful good fruits are helpful actions for others. Godly wisdom does not show favoritism. Living by wisdom from God produces the fruit of righteousness—evidence of a right relationship with Him. Believers experience peace and work for peace among others. Sowing the seeds of mercy and good deeds, believers function as peacemakers.
- Core value examples: Never stop learning, never compare, never give up, etc.

**4. Read Luke 6:32-36 — In what ways do you struggle to get validation from others? In what ways do you tend to use others for your own gain? What effect has this had on your family? What do you think the key is to relating with others without falling into either enmeshment or detachment?**

- Jesus pointed out that even sinners love those who love them. Giving love in exchange for love requires no sacrifice. Giving love to those who refuse to love you in return takes something out of you. Jesus turned to an example of Christians who lend. Christians are to lend for a different reason: to provide an advantage to the borrower instead of to oneself.
- Enmeshment— you find anxious people and get anxious with them.
- Detachment— you run from drama and never care for anyone.

**5. Read John 15:1-11 — According to this passage, how do we grow in favor with God? Do you struggle believing that you've already earned God's love and don't need to earn anymore? How does this affect the way that you parent your kids and lead those in your family?**

- *Abiding* suggests an effortless resting in the Lord, confident in the promised union between the vine and the true branches.
- John used the word *remain* frequently in his Gospel and it seems to emphasize an ongoing faith and loving obedience to the Father and the Son that results in fruit. The fruit in this passage seems to focus on spirit-generated behavior of Christians.

**6. How can you assure this week that you continue to grow in the process of discipleship? In what area would you need to focus your growth over the next year?**

**7. Spend some time praying for and encouraging one another.**