

August 30, 2015
The Orange Series Part 3—Partnering with Parents
Ted Cunningham

1. Ted showed us pictures of a happy baby suddenly crying in his bath and a toddler lying in the floor crying because the orange her mother had peeled for her wasn't the right size. Ted also showed us a picture of a child in a store wearing a red T-shirt that came to her ankles.

*What is a weird thing one of your children cried about?

*What is the strangest thing you ever let one of your children wear in public or the strangest thing you wore in public as a child.

2. Most of us understand the saying "Pick your battles." What battles have you decided not to fight with your children? What issues have you decided you need to battle? Or what battles did your parents choose or decline to fight?

3. Ted pointed out three goals often confused: love and safety trump happiness; character trumps comfort; relationship trumps companionship.

*For many happiness means giving the child anything he or she wants or removing anything that upsets the child at the cost of learning, growing, and remaining safe. Give a specific example of a parent choosing love and safety rather than happiness (or immediate gratification.)

*How have you helped your children navigate through a challenge or difficulty, developing character, rather than remove it for their comfort?

*Or how did your parents help you through a trial?

4. Ted reminded us that Jesus should be our child's priority, not us or anything else. How can we be the priority? How are other things a priority? How do we help our child choose Jesus his or her priority?

5. Read Matthew 10:37-38 and discuss what it means to love God more than even your own children. Why might our "Father in Heaven" ask this of us?

6. Do you have someone in your life who thinks you're crazy to follow Jesus? How does that affect your relationship?

7. Deuteronomy 6:7 tell us to teach God's laws (and his ways and his truth) "diligently" to our children, "talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

*Tell about a time you've had a meaningful conversation with your children about spiritual matters when it was spontaneous and unplanned.

*Tell about a truth about God you shared with your kids or your parents shared with you when you were around the house or going places.

* As a child were you sent or taken to bed? What did bedtime or “tucking in” consist of? Do you have a bedtime routine that allows you to influence your kids, to teach them as best you can to know and love God?