

August 23, 2013
Orange Series: Part Two--Fight for the Heart
Carey Nieuwhof

1. List the phases of children's lives from birth to eighteen when they graduate from high school and potentially leave home.

*Which phase is your favorite and why?

*Tell about a hard or special time in one of the phases.

2. If some in your group are empty nesters, tell what is hard about that and also what is unexpectedly nice about it.

3. What are among the greatest challenges and rewards in your marriage?

What are among the greatest challenges and rewards in parenting?

4. Carey's five year old asked him, "What is sex?" What is one of the most difficult or interesting questions your child has asked you?

5. All families fight.

*Can you share a silly fight you've had over something fairly unimportant in hindsight. Was there an underlying issue?

*Are you a "rules" (truth) or "relational" (grace) fighter?

*Is it possible to be a mix? Explain how that has or might work.

6. We need both rules and relationship. Carey reminded us that God's love has a backbone. He loves us so much he will try to keep us from hurting ourselves.

What is a consequence you or someone you know experienced because you or they broke a rule?

7. Fighting WITH someone says, "I'm right and you're wrong." Fighting FOR someone says, "I want YOU to win." (Jesus sacrificed his life so we could win.) Think of a common issue family members fight about and discuss the difference in fighting with and fighting for.

8. Jesus fights for us. Make a list of scriptures that support that truth.

9. Has any person fought for you? How did he or she do that? How did it affect you? Who do you need to fight for today?

10. Carey says we have a family voice. What are some examples of your family voice that you wouldn't use with others? How did Carey say to eliminate less than desirable family voices? (Talk to them as you would a stranger.)

11. As kids mature into teenagers, they often withdraw. What are some ways parents can combat that? Do you know parents who have great relationships with their adult children? How do you account for that? How can we prepare to be "influencers" in our adult children's lives?