



**ICEBREAKER** - Have everyone get a snowball from outside (an ice cube if no snow) and see who can hold it in their closed fist the longest.

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

- 1. The father in this story is more interested in the heart of his sons than judging their behavior.**
  - Is this shocking to you? Good news? Is this a no-brainer?
  - What practical problems come with this point of view?
  - What would it look like for you to be most interested in the heart of someone close to you who has challenging behavior?
- 2. Take the LONGVIEW with people because change/transformation is a process not an event.**
  - What does longview parenting look like?
  - If you are a parent how do you parent from event to event? What would change about your response to events if you had a longer view?
- 3. Set rights and hurt aside, let fighting words fall to the ground untouched.**
  - Are there words, arguments or cycles of communication that continually cause conflict in the people closest to you?
  - What part do your rights or emotions play in these cycles of conflict? Emotions like fatigue, fear, duty, sense of right and wrong, common sense, self preservation, desire for peace or rest?
  - What practice would help you like the father in this story let the emotion packed fighting words fall to the ground?
  - Why would you do this?
- 4. Image Management - Worrying about what the neighbors will think.**
  - The leaders of Orchard Hill Church remind staff members often that their kids don't work for the church. What the staff do and say matters, but their children are responsible to manage the image of the church?
  - What would your parents have thought or said about the father in this story and how he related to his sons?
  - Why would the church leaders remind staff of this frequently?
  - Does this apply to families? Are kids responsible for managing the image of their family?
  - What beliefs or emotions does this idea push against?