

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Quick review: As you review the message guide, what are some take-aways that really touched your heart? Why do you think they registered with you?

Diving in:

- It may be hard for some (Dave swallowed hard to share his, "*The Age of Adaline*"), but what is your favorite love story? Why does it draw you in? How is love for a parent/child different and similar to a love interest?
- How does God command us to treat our parents, according to the fifth commandment in Exodus 20:12? How does honor in particular show both love and respect for God and our parents? What are some ways people show honor or respect for parents?
- How do we show respect to family members according to 1 Timothy 5:3-4? How important is it to God that we care for family members? When we consider putting our religious responsibilities into practice, how does God prioritize them?
- How does 1 Timothy 5:8 describe someone who does not provide for relatives, especially for immediate family? What does it mean to deny the faith and be worse than an unbeliever?
- What is a characteristic of godly friends and families according to Proverbs 17:17? How might believers support friends and family members?
- According to Philippians 2:5, who should we model our attitude after? Discuss how helping others can be helpful to take our eyes off our own pain. Share an example that demonstrates the power of reaching out in our weakness to help others.
- Read 1 Peter 4:1. What do we lose while in pain if we can demonstrate the same attitude Christ had? Jesus suffered excruciating pain on the cross, yet he was thinking not only about us (the world), but also those standing beneath the cross (Mary and John). What is a surprising benefit of suffering in Christ's name?
- What should be our focus according to Romans 15:2-3? Why don't we care for other's problems? What happens to our problems when we focus on others? Read Romans 12:13. How should we treat those in need? How can we keep our motivations pure in doing this?

Next Steps: If Jesus was eager to meet the needs of others during his pain, how much more is He ready to meet your needs now? The love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross lasts forever, unlike any other love you will encounter while you are here on earth. God wants to give you his very best – but you can't receive it unless you are close to Him. Mary and John were at the feet of the cross and we also need to be at the feet of the cross to receive his blessing. God's answer to your pain is _____?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



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²⁵Jesus' mother stood near his cross. Her sister was also standing there with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower he loved very much standing there. He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the follower, "Here is your mother." So after that, this follower took Jesus' mother to live in his home.
John 19:25–27 ERV

To love and live like Jesus I will...

➔ ...live love to my family.

➤ By honoring them

¹²You must honor and respect your father and your mother. Do this so that you will have a full life in the land that the Lord your God gives you.
Exodus 20:12 ERV

³Show respect for widows who really are all alone. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should learn first to carry out their religious duties toward their own family and in this way repay their parents and grandparents, because that is what pleases God."
1 Timothy 5:3-4 TEV

➤ By providing for them

⁸Everyone should take care of all their own people. Most important, they should take care of their own family. If they do not do that, then they do not accept what we believe. They are worse than someone who does not even believe in God.
1 Timothy 5:8 ERV

➤ By supporting them

¹⁷Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble."
Proverbs 17:17 MSG

- ➔ ...live love by considering believers
to be part of my family.

¹Do not rebuke an older man (in the church), but appeal to him as your father. Treat the younger men as your brothers, ²treat the older women as mothers, and treat the younger women as sisters, with all purity.”

1 Timothy 5:1-2 TEV

¹⁰Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.

Romans 12:10 GW

¹⁰Whenever we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10 NCV

²Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 NLT

- ➔ ...live love by seeing other's pain
even when I'm in pain.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5 NIV

¹Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude he did; you must be ready to suffer, too. For remember, when your body suffers, sin loses its power.

1 Peter 4:1 LB

- ➔ ...live love by meeting needs even
when mine aren't.

²Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" ³That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out...

Romans 15:2-3 MSG

¹³Share with God's people who need help. Be the one to help them out. Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.

Romans 12:13 ERV, NLT, DFS

When Grieving and Hurting

- Remember, Jesus cares about your pain.

⁴You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

Matthew 5:4 MSG

- Accept love from others.

²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 NIV

- Look for someone else to help.

¹⁸Form your purpose by asking for counsel, then carry it out using all the help you can get.

Proverbs 20:18 MSG

Bottom Line:

To live love
is to love and live.

Often Dave uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

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To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the "Think It Over" section on the back.

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