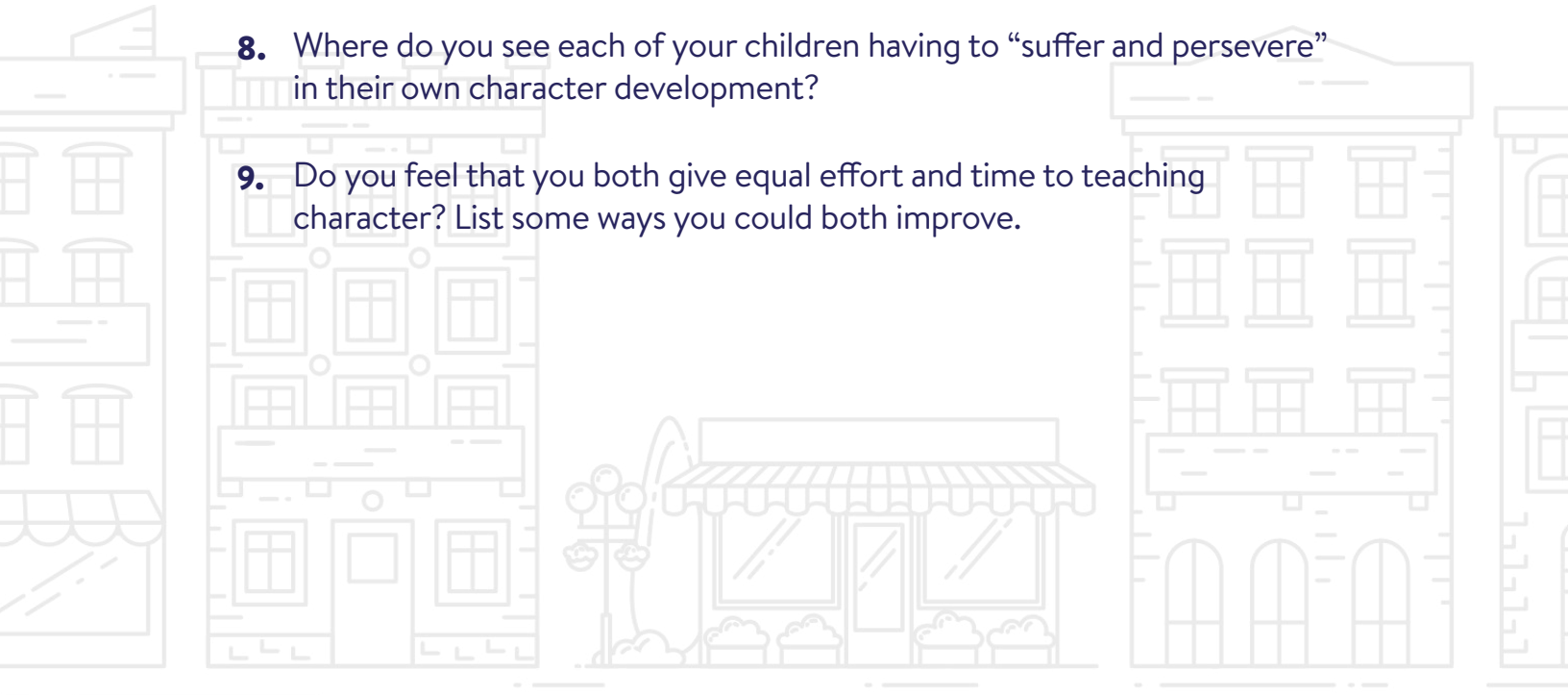
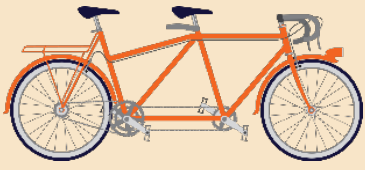


PARENTING TOGETHER

Part 1 • Growing Your Child's Character

1. What are the character traits that you feel are most important?
2. When and where do you find it most difficult to teach character?
3. Karen and Greg discussed a character trait that was prominent for each of their children, do you see any character issues that are more prevalent for each of your children?
4. Do you find that it is more difficult for your children to have the wisdom to “know what is right” or the courage to “do what is right”?
5. Are you modeling the character traits you are teaching? In what areas are you struggling?
6. When, where, and with which child are you most likely to “tag you’re it” with your spouse to help share the burden of teaching character?
7. In what ways do you need encouragement from your spouse as you teach and model character to your children?
8. Where do you see each of your children having to “suffer and persevere” in their own character development?
9. Do you feel that you both give equal effort and time to teaching character? List some ways you could both improve.

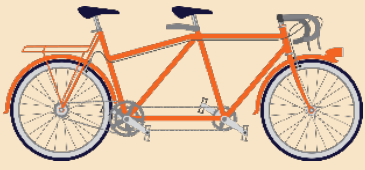




PARENTING TOGETHER

Part 2 • Being United

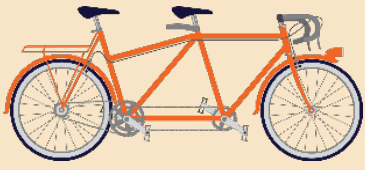
1. Karen said “getting on the same page is hard,” do you agree? Why?
2. What are the challenges that keep you and your spouse from being united?
3. Where have you seen the children divide you and your spouse?
4. Do you “defend” one child over another?
5. Ephesians 4:3 says, “*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*”
 - a. Are you “making every effort”? If yes, list the ways. If not, why not?
 - b. In what area do you feel “bound together in peace”?
 - c. In what area do you not feel “bound together in peace”?
 - d. If you asked your children the following: *Do you have peaceful parents?* What would they say and why?
6. Have you become an “individual leader” and not part of the team?
If yes, why?
7. What areas have you and your spouse disagreed about your children and/or family?
8. What have you done to resolve those differences?
9. Do you have a trusted mentor when disagreements arise?
10. Do you feel like your perspective as a parent is validated by your spouse?
Why or why not?
11. Do you feel like your observations as a parent are valued by your spouse?
Why or why not?
12. Do you have any structure or a plan to stay united during these years of kids activities, busy work schedules, etc?
13. Homework: take some time to develop a plan to get on the same team.



PARENTING TOGETHER

Part 3 • Discipline

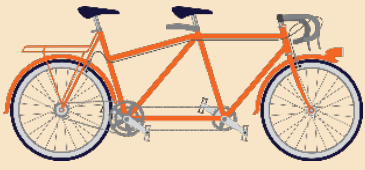
1. Hebrews 12:11 says, “*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*” What are your thoughts about the principles contained within this verse?
2. What is your child’s currency? As a preschooler? As an elementary student? As a teenager?
3. Why is it so important to establish the authority of the parent during the preschool years?
4. In the Teaching phase, what have you done to explain the “why” behind the “no”? What has been successful? What hasn’t worked?
5. How have you been able to help your child understand what is driving their actions?
6. During the Coaching phase, why is it so hard as a parent to allow our children to fail?
7. What boundaries have you put in place for your teenager that serve as some measure of discipline when they are crossed?
8. If your teenager came to you at 10:45 pm and needed help with a school assignment, how would you respond? How does your response help or hurt your teenager learn the consequences of their actions?
9. Where have you and your spouse had success on being united? Where have you had difficulty finding common ground around discipline?
10. Karen said, “if it’s not consistent, it’s confusing.” Are there certain areas that you could improve on your consistency? How can you and your spouse work together to be a consistent team?
11. When do you find yourself the most frustrated? What do you do to create some time and space between the offense and the discipline?
12. Are there certain areas of discipline that your child knows you won’t follow through? What can you do to change? How can you and your spouse work together to be clear about your rules and discipline?



PARENTING TOGETHER

Part 4 • Keeping Your Marriage Strong

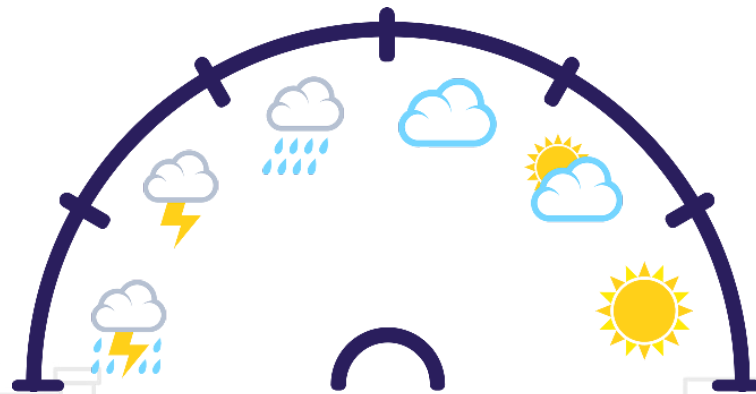
1. What was one of the first “differences” you noticed about your spouse after you were married?
2. Have you said to yourself recently, “It feels like we are just two ships passing in the night.”? Have you shared that with your spouse?
3. What steps have you taken in your marriage to become a student of your spouse? What have you learned?
4. How have you implemented the things you have learned about your spouse to strengthen your marriage?
5. For the men, do you get the affirmation and confirmation from your wife that she thinks “you have what it takes”? If so, how have you received it? If not, how has it affected the way you feel about your standing as a husband and father?
6. For the women, have you marginalized, minimized, or spiritualized any issues your husband has shared with you? What can you do or say to confirm to your husband that he “has what it takes”?
7. For the men, what have you done lately to make your spouse feel valued? To feel pursued? To feel cherished?
8. For the women, do you feel valued by your husband? What do you need to feel valued? To feel pursued? To feel cherished?
9. Is there any doubt in your mind that you are your husbands #1?
10. What is your spouse’s love language? Are you speaking it on a consistent basis?
11. When will you go on your next date? Your next vacation? Work on your 3-5 year dream plan?



PARENTING TOGETHER

Part 5 • The Barometer of Marriage

1. What motivates you? What is your Topgun?
2. Does it feel unfair that your spouse is pursuing their dream? Why?
3. Have you put a “dream” on hold to raise your family? Discuss this with your spouse.
4. When has your spouse seen “stormy weather” ahead? What was your reaction? Did you navigate to change?
5. Using the barometer graphic, mark the status of your family and of you and your spouse? Were you surprised with what your spouse marked down? Why?



6. Does it feel like a trend is developing? What is the trend?
7. How often will you commit to checking in with your spouse and “Reading the Barometer”?
8. What can you do to create a safe environment to discuss issues that arise in your marriage?