

**Message Series:** ALL IN – A Relationship Series, week 4

**Message Title:** The Murphy Family is ALL IN

**Date:** February 27 & 28, 2016

**Message Summary:** Pastor Ken & his wife Serena share some of the relational insights they are learning through 24 years of marriage, 19 years of parenting and many years of living and leading. We also hear from two of their sons Peyton, age 11 and Mac, age 16, about growing up in the Murphy family.

**Leaders:** The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. Feel free to write your answers down and make notes so you are prepared to lead your group. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self-awareness* – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!

**Below you will find questions that relate to the primary scripture and additional scripture. There will be other reflective questions intended for group discussion and application.**

**> Pastor Ken & Serena sharing about life and relationships.  
Everyone and every relationship has issues to deal with.**

1. Pastor Ken said there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9), yet sometimes we can hear something in a new way that connects with us. Can you think of an example of something you've heard several times but it there was one time it finally clicked or connected in a way that you "got it" or understood?

Read Romans Chapter 12. Write down the top three principles that stand out to you from this chapter.

2. Pastor Ken and Serena both mentioned how important Romans 12:18 has been for them in their relationship with one another, as well as others. What does this verse mean for you? Keep in mind that the NIV translation says, "if it is possible" and "as far as it depends on you".

3. Serena shared what her main goal this past year has been, "to know God is to trust God." What are you doing to deepen your relationship with God so that you grow to know and trust Him more? What is the relationship between knowledge and application to "know God" better? Serena shared about how when the wind blows through their backyard, the red plastic chairs go flying. How well do you remain "anchored" when the "winds of change" blow through your life?

4. Serena shared how important her daily devotions are, along with the small groups she is involved in. Have you found a group? Do you have people in your life who speak into you and do you have those in your life you can speak into them?

5. Heart Work and Skill Work. Pastor Ken said when your heart becomes so wounded or hard that we are in desperate need of a “heart transplant” which only Christ can perform. Has anyone in your group experienced a healed heart by the hand of Christ where the work was clearly a work of God? Our role is to pray, pursue Him and work to develop our skills, but the heart work belongs to the Lord.

6. Pastor Ken and Serena mentioned they have listened to podcasts, read books together and have done many things to “figure it out” when they have hit challenging seasons in life. What do you do when you hit challenges in different relationships? Remember Romans 12:18

### **> Mac & Peyton joined the discussion to talk about family life and parenting**

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1. In verse 9, writing these laws on the doorframes of your home and on your gates, represents the “rules / guidelines” upon which we live at home in our personal lives as well as in our social lives. How well are you doing at being the same person at home as you are out and about in the rest of life?
2. More is caught than taught when it comes to passing on values of faith. What are you doing to pass on a “lifestyle faith” to the next generation and others you have contact with on a regular basis?

### **➤ Final Response**

Each of our families and relationships look different... but prayer can transform them. What's one specific thing you could start or continue to pray for by name for those you call family?

Resources for couples and small groups:

Ken and Serena like this website. They have great podcasts to listen to.  
<http://www.smalley.cc/> See Marriage & Parenting Advice Topics.

Also our Cypress Adult Life/Small Group Team recommends anything from Focus on the Family website, <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>. This site also has excellent recommendations for small group material.

Ken and Serena talked about the importance being in a group with other Christian couples with the same values. Are you in a group like this?

It's important to have a community of believers who can help you raise your children as well as supporting your marriage as Galatians 6:2 states, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."