



**Remind** the difference between *Nature* and *Nurture*. *Nature* is your genetic system, *nurture* is your ecosystem. *Nature* is what you get before you're born, and *nurture* is everything that you get *after* you're born.

**Recall** as an example the story of Tarzan. His nature was human, but his nurture was provided by an Ape. So even if he was a man, he acted like a monkey, talked like a monkey, ate like a monkey. By the way, Tarzan is fictional but in history, there have been many examples of kids raised by animals.

**Ask for sharing** how members were "nurtured" through Family Cycles that have affected the thoughts and actions of members.

**Point out** that the Talk emphasizes the Gift of Free Will—  
Our sin-tendency is more about nurture than nature. God created us very good (Genesis 1:31). God's greatest gift to us, next to Jesus, is our free will."

**Recall** the story of a set of twin brothers. Their father was a jobless alcoholic who beat them up regularly. When they grew up, one of the twins became exactly like his father—a jobless alcoholic with a broken family. The other twin grew up to become a successful businessman with a lovely family.

They grew up with the same horrible father. But he didn't chart their destinies. They did. They chose to be who they are.

**Point out** Heat up butter and it gets softer. Heat up steel and it gets harder. Same heat. Different results. At the end of the day, you choose how to respond.

**Ask:** Are you butter or are you steel?  
How can you go from butter to steel?

**Give pointers** on how to start discussing taboos in the family:

- 1) **Love** everyone without condition. Accept them, warts and all.
- 2) **Forgive.** It won't be easy, but point out: Just do the action of forgiving. The pain won't go away overnight, but the feeling of forgiveness and acceptance will eventually follow.
- 3) **Have "coffee dates"**— a time to talk privately, gently, with each one of those concerned who need healing.

### III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

1. **Ask** members a trial they are going through. Pray over each member, pray for healing or relief from his/her particular trial.

2. **Pray** the *Prayer for Healing of the Family Tree*:

Father, I open my whole family—past, present, and future—to your Healing Love. I receive your Unconditional Mercy for the all the sins of my entire family, living or dead. I receive your total healing for all the harm caused by the sins of my parents and grandparents, all their siblings, and those before them. I receive your powerful restoration for the damages caused by the failures of my family, living or dead. I receive your glorious victory and total freedom over all bondages in my family. I receive your complete protection over every member of my family. And by the power of Jesus at work in me, I forgive everyone, especially family members, living or dead, who have hurt me. I consecrate my entire family to you, Jesus, especially dedicating our children and grandchildren; And with all my heart, I declare, as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15 NIV)

In the next meeting, **remember to follow up** members about their concerns, and ask if they have made an effort to start discussions of a taboo in the family.

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