



WEEKLY QUESTIONS - SCARY CLOSE

Week 3: Ch. 9 – Ch. 12

The questions below are intended to make you think about the material you are reading and how it applies to your own life, as well as where you can make changes. You can answer these questions on your blog, in a journal, or in our [Facebook group](#) – or all of the above! If you are behind, don't worry. All the information will be there for you to come back to at your own pace. No stress. No judgment. No guilt!

QUESTIONS:

1. In Chapter 9, DM talks about the “five kinds of manipulators.” Can you link each of the descriptions with someone in your life (if even a politician or newscaster)? Which type(s) do you practice yourself?
2. DM says that Henry Cloud and John Townsend define a “safe person” as “somebody who speaks the truth in grace.” What does that mean to you personally? Do you have someone like this in your life?
3. In Ch. 10, DM shares an incident that made his dog, Lucy, behave in a timid manner. He shares that people can do this to each other – make them feel scared as a way to isolate and control. The way I read this is that people try to destroy intimacy (connection) by isolating us. If that's, true, then intimacy must be some powerful stuff! What might people who desire power/control fear about intimacy? Why would they want to isolate us?
4. Have you been guilty of writing someone off for one mistake they've made, or for a mistake they're reputed to have made? Why did you respond the way you did?
5. The description of the palliative care nurse's patients and their regrets is always a poignant one for me. DM's response mirrors my own: “As I read about Bronnie's patients I wondered how many opinions I've wanted to share but held back for fear of criticism, what love I've wanted to express but stayed silent for fear of rejection; or the poems and stories I've never released because I didn't think they were good enough for publication.” What have YOU held back for fear of being rejected or judged? Who were you afraid of? Does this description make you want to undertake a different way of living? Do you agree that the fears are just a “mirage,” as DM describes in Ch. 10?

6. DM says that he learned that “people attack out of fear.” What do you think – is that a true statement? Do you also agree that the greatest leaders are those who are able to love their haters?
7. “The most powerful, most attractive person we can be is who we already are.” (Ch. 10). Agree or disagree?
8. Ch. 11 is about parenting and DM's desire to be liked and admired by his kids. He says that parents who don't try to be “know it alls” and admit their own shortcomings create great kids. Why do parents try so hard to present a capable, omniscient, in control persona to their kids?
9. DM says that “parents who are open and honest with their kids create an environment in which their children are allowed to be human” and not hide themselves. Do you think this is equally true for all relationships?
10. DM shares his friend Paul's story about his emotional affair and the impact it had on his family, and why he felt he had to share the story with his children. While I understand his motivation, I don't know if I would have done the same thing. Do you think it was a good idea or bad idea to share that information with the kids in the family? Can we create intimacy while maintaining boundaries? What boundaries SHOULD there be between child and parent?
11. What are your biggest takeaways or “Aha!” realizations from this section?

Summary:

- Manipulating is deception, and deception destroys intimacy.
- Loving another person and being intimate with them DOES NOT mean accepting all their behavior. There is a difference between judging and calling them on it.
- Fear of rejection can destroy us from the inside out – and it's usually misplaced fear.
- We don't have to “know it all,” even with our kids.

“How else will we connect with people unless we let them know us?”