

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all, or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Exodus 2:23–3:15,16-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God sees the suffering of the oppressed and promises redemption.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

When the people cried out, God heard them. God also saw their oppression, and the writer says that God took notice of the situation (Exodus 2:24-25). God heard. God saw. God knew. God's attentive nature is revealed throughout Scripture. God's people can cry out to their God and trust that He hears them and cares about their situation.

► How does it encourage you to know that God hears the cries of the oppressed?

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

“God is grieved by the sin, death, and power of hell that afflicts His world, and is sacrificially involved in the removal of all that destroys and alienates His world from Himself.” –Joshua Ryan Butler, *The Skeletons in God's Closet*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. How can our family make sure we are paying attention to the injustice and oppression in our world so that God can work through us?**
- 2. What are some ways our family can increase our sense of reverence for God?**
- 3. What excuses have we made in the past for not serving God? What is one way we can commit to serving Him as a family this week?**

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Exodus 6:2-9; 7:14-18

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God demonstrates His glory by comforting His people and confronting those who oppose Him.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

In the previous session, we saw how God commissioned Moses and his brother, Aaron, to deliver a message to Pharaoh on behalf of the Israelites. As Moses and Aaron encounter Pharaoh, we see God reassuring Moses that He is in control (Ex. 6:1). Then God comforts Moses by giving several promises. (See Ex. 6:2-9.)

Promises provide us with hope of what is to come. In the midst of darkness, promises remind us of the glory of God. Here, we find that God gave Moses several awesome reminders: (1) "I will deliver you" (Ex. 6:6a); (2) "I will redeem you" (6:6b); (3) "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God" (6:7); and (4) "I will bring you to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (6:8).

► **What promises in Exodus 6:2-9 do you think would have been most meaningful to the Israelites?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

**"True faith and suffering frequently go hand-in-hand... Living for Christ, walking in His way, will not be an easy path."
–Billy Graham**

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. When our family faces opposition or difficulty, what promises of God do we lean on?**
- 2. When has God delivered our family from a difficult situation? How can remembering God's intervention in times like this lead us to genuine worship?**
- 3. What false gods are we sometimes tempted to place our trust in? How can we hold one another accountable to trusting God instead?**

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Scripture

Exodus 11:4-8; 12:1-13,29-32

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Even in His righteous judgment, God offers salvation through the sacrifice of a substitute.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

This need for a perfect sacrifice reminds us of our own state. We, being corrupted by our sin, cannot save ourselves. Our good works are like the blemished lamb—unworthy before a holy God. We need one who serves as a substitute on our behalf. Jesus is the Lamb for the household of God. Only through faith in Him are our sins covered. He alone is our hope. Paul says, “for Christ our Passover has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:7b).

Similarly, those who have been born again have Christ's blood covering them. God sees Christ's blood on us and passes over our sin. He forgives our trespasses and accepts Christ's righteousness as our own.

► **Why was it important for the sacrificial lamb to be spotless? What did being spotless signify?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

“True, Christ died for our sins as a sacrifice, and as a priest he sprinkleth with his blood the mercy seat.” —John Bunyan

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. In what ways does our family celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas, etc.? Do you think it's equally important for our family to celebrate the Lord's Supper together? Why or why not?**
- 2. The blood on the door was a public statement for all to see. What characteristics should distinguish our family from those who do not worship God?**
- 3. How does worshipping God together as a family impact our witness for Christ?**

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Scripture

Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-14,21-31

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God protects His people and brings judgment upon those who oppose Him.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

When we are more focused on our circumstances (like the sea and the army in the case of the Israelites), we will always begin to worry. But when we are focused on God and His greatness and power, then no circumstances are too scary because God is always bigger.

▶ **Do you usually react like the Israelites when your circumstances become difficult?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

“We must trust that the God who cares more for us than we do for ourselves will lead us in his paths for his great name's sake, just as he has promised.” —J. D. Greear, *Jesus, Continued*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. How does our family respond to stress? Are we quick to worry and complain, or do we immediately trust God? Explain.**
- 2. When have we been able to look back and see how God has guided our family? How does that help us trust Him with the future?**
- 3. What is the appropriate response to God's protection and intervention in difficult circumstances? In what ways can our family improve when it comes to recognizing God's work in our circumstances and giving Him praise?**

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Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God's goodness is shown through His sustaining grace toward His people.

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2. Thought From the Study

God didn't redeem Israel to then forsake them. God redeems, and God provides. As believers, we should remember that God has brought us through a greater exodus. And if God would provide the solution for our greatest problem (through Christ's death and resurrection), then we have no reason to question His goodness or doubt His faithfulness when facing our day-to-day problems. God is good. Believe it.

- ▶ **We all grumble and complain. How does adding the words "against the Lord" after "grumble" or "complain" change our view of this attitude?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Discontent is a sin that is its own punishment and makes men torment themselves; it makes the spirit sad, the body sick, and all the enjoyments sour; it is the heaviness of the heart and the rottenness of the bones. It is a sin that is its own parent. It arises not from the condition, but from the mind. As we find Paul contented in a prison, so Ahab discontent in a palace." —Matthew Henry, *An Exposition of the Old and New Testaments*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. As we think of an area where our family needs God's guidance, what expectations can we have of God regarding this? What expectations might God have of us?**
- 2. God intended to train and form His people during their years in the wilderness. In what ways might God be training our family as we walk through difficult times?**
- 3. In what ways does grumbling about our circumstances hurt our witness to friends and other family members?**

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Scripture

Exodus 32:1-14

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Idolatry is putting something or someone in the place of God.

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2. Thought From the Study

The people chose to worship a created thing instead of worshiping the Creator God. The psalmist writes in Psalm 106, "So He said He would have destroyed them—if Moses His chosen one had not stood before Him in the breach to turn His wrath away from destroying them" (v. 23). What a remarkable statement about the work of Moses on behalf of the Israelites.

► **How can we intercede for others in prayer? Why is this important?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Anything you love more, fear more, serve more, or value more than God is your idol." –Adrian Rogers

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. What are some things, besides God, that our family tends to put our hope in? Why won't those things bring fulfillment?**
- 2. How can we help one another turn to God instead of idols during difficult times?**
- 3. How can we intercede for others in prayer? Who is someone our family needs to be praying for today?**

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Scripture

Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The first four commandments reflect God's desire to be first in the hearts of His people.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

In a moment of great weariness and uncertainty for the children of Israel, God was reassuring His people that He loved them enough to rescue them, and He had not forgotten them. They were safe, and they should trust Him completely. God loved the people enough to show Himself in the law. By telling Israel about Himself through the law, God was establishing a clear understanding of how to know and please Him. The law removed any ambiguity and showed them what God's holiness looked like applied to the context of their lives.

- ▶ **Why is it important for all believers to recognize that the God who delivered the Israelites and gave them the Ten Commandments is the same God who delivers us today?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Remember what sin is: fundamental independence of God; the thing in me that says, I can do without God, I don't need Him." —Oswald Chambers

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. Which of the first four commandments do you need to work on? How can our family help you when it comes to keeping these commandments?**
- 2. God showed His love for the Israelites by rescuing them and giving them the law. What evidence has God given our family of His love for us?**
- 3. How well do our lives reflect God's love for us and for others?**

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Scripture

Exodus 20:12-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The remaining six commandments reflect God's desire for how people should relate to one another.

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2. Thought From the Study

Christ has everything to do with the Ten Commandments. Instead of thinking about the commands as a list of don'ts, we are encouraged to think about them as an expression of how Christ transforms us to live as citizens of His kingdom.

► **How would the world be different if more Christians lived according to the last six commandments?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"If you want the truth to go round the world, you must hire an express train to pull it; but if you want a lie to go round the world it will fly; it is as light as a feather and a breath will carry it." —Charles Spurgeon

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. Would you want to live in a family where there are not rules or standards? Why or why not?**
- 2. How does life go better when we live according to the standards God has established for us?**
- 3. Which of the last six commandments does our family tend to follow well? Which ones could we stand to improve on the most?**

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Scripture

Exodus 25:1-9; 39:32-43; 40:34-38

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God desires to dwell among His people.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

While Moses was alone with God, God showed him what was next on the divine agenda. God asked for a tabernacle—a sacred tent—to be constructed as the place where His presence would be manifested. This would make it possible for a holy God to dwell among His people.

The tabernacle section of Exodus clearly demonstrated that God wanted to be with His people, and He wanted them to know that He was with them. The same is true today. The greatest evidence of this truth is the incarnation: God Himself took on human form. Jesus was (and is) the preeminent tabernacle where God has displayed Himself to humanity.

► **Do you think having really specific instructions makes it easier or more difficult to obey God? Why?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

“God’s promise of giving his powerful presence to Israel—that is, coming down to actually live among them—is one of the most significant promises in the Scriptures, and it will echo throughout all the rest of the Story.” —J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Living God’s Word*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. Just as God used some human leaders to accomplish His will in constructing the tabernacle, what might be some tasks our family has been called to fulfill?**
- 2. Knowing that God dwells among us, how should that impact the way our family relates to one another?**
- 3. What are some practical ways our family can demonstrate the presence of God to those around us?**

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Scripture

Leviticus 1:3-9; 2:1-3; 3:1-5

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Atonement is needed for removal of guilt, restoration of service, and reconciliation with God.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

Christ's death fulfilled the symbolism of Israel's rituals. He offered His own blood on behalf of others, not needing the blood of another because He had no sin. He entered the heavenly "most holy place" rather than the earthly copy of the most holy place. (See last week's study.) He obtained "eternal redemption" rather than a temporary atonement. He removed our guilt forever through the blood offering of Himself to God: "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified. ... Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin" (Heb. 10:14,18).

► **As with the grain offering, what are some ways we can express our gratitude to God today?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"And so, like a sheaf of grain, the firstfruits of the earth, he offered himself to the Father for our sake."

—Cyril of Alexandria

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

1. When has a family member made a sacrifice for you? What does this say about their love for you? How does this help you appreciate Jesus' even greater love and sacrifice for you?

2. What are ways we express a restored relationship with others today?

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Leviticus 5:1-19; Hebrews 9:13-14; 13:11-12

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Atonement is needed for purification and cleansing.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

Our consciences hurt when we've hurt another. It's human nature to try to set things straight when we know we've messed up. The Israelite people felt the same way. God's answer to this need was the restitution offering.

► **Do you seek to make things right when you realize you've hurt someone? Why is this important?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"I must act in a holy manner, not for reward or appearance, but because of God's nature. The Law continually reminds me that commandments are to be kept, not for their own sake, but for God's sake. I will be righteous then, because God's nature is such. His character determines my conduct." —Jim Elliot, from *Shadow of the Almighty* by Elisabeth Elliot

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. Think about the words you've used today when talking with your family members. Would Jesus be pleased? Why or why not?**
- 2. How do you respond when you realize you've hurt another family member? Why is seeking to make things right important, especially within a family?**
- 3. Do you tend to own up to your mistakes or do you try to hide them? How could hiding them affect your relationship with your parents?**

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Scripture

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; 11:1,26-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God's law is a gift, but it cannot save.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

As noted throughout these sessions, God gave the law to people whom He had already redeemed. The commands of God were never, ever, intended by God as a way to earn salvation. In fact, the laws about sacrifice were given to guide Israel in what to do when people broke the law. The law was meant as a blessing for the good of God's people.

► **What does your love for God have to do with your obedience to God? Does God only love us if we obey Him? Explain.**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Paul shows that the fulfillment of the law is found in love ... So he who came to fulfill the law gave love through the Holy Spirit, so that charity might accomplish what fear could not." —Augustine

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. Does obedience have a negative connotation in our family? Why or why not?**
- 2. How does following God's commands show your love for him? What difference has being obedient to God made in your life?**
- 3. What difference could it make in our family if we all focused on obeying God and modeling our character after His?**

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

John 1:14-18

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Christmas isn't about holiday decorations and gifts, but about God coming to dwell among His people.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

The word incarnation means "in flesh." For Christians, the word is more than a technical term. It brings us comfort and joy because it reminds us of the moment the grace of God became personified through the birth of Jesus Christ. In the incarnation, God invaded our world so that He could save sinners who were unable to save themselves.

► **How does our inability to keep God's laws demonstrate our need for grace?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation."

—J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. What conclusions could your friends or teachers draw about your family based on what they know about you individually?**
- 2. What conclusions can we draw about God based on what we know about His Son?**
- 3. If someone's only picture of God came from the way we live and act around one another, what kind of picture would they get?**
- 4. What are some things our family can do this Christmas season to focus more on Christ?**