

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

1 Samuel 8:1-22

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Rejecting God's loving rule reveals a lack of satisfaction in Him and personal holiness within our lives.

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 Israelites looked to a king to guarantee prosperity and security. What they would receive instead were kings who would take those things from them. They wanted a king whom they could control. Instead, their kings would wind up controlling them. What they thought would empower them would actually enslave them!

► **What are some examples of things in life that “promise” to give us something but instead “take” from us?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

God has placed in the heart of every man a longing for Himself, and nothing that isn't Himself, nothing that's not eternal, can fulfill an eternal longing. – Colt McCoy & Matt Carter

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. Where do we sometimes place our security, other than in Christ? What are the signs of our misplaced trust?**
- 2. How can our family prioritize the pursuit of holiness?**
- 3. In what ways can we submit to God's loving rule in our lives? What kind of difference will this make in our home?**

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Scripture

1 Samuel 15:10-29

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

When it comes to following God, half-hearted obedience is still disobedience.

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2. Thought From the Study

Saul believed he was successful—he completed his mission and returned with a prisoner king as well as livestock for a sacrifice to God. He should be honored right? Wrong. Disobedience is still disobedience no matter what gain or “good” may come as a result.

► **What examples of half-hearted obedience have you witnessed in your own life?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“The best measure of a spiritual life is not its ecstasies, but its obedience.” – Oswald Chambers

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. How can our family commit to fully obeying God?**
- 2. What are some common rationalizations we give for our sin? How can we learn to view all sin as disobedience?**
- 3. What is the difference between sacrifice and obedience? How does our family sometimes sacrifice without obeying?**

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Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:20-26,33-37,45-51

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God is looking for a king who reflects His heart and will fight for 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

David wasn't affected by the discouragement of people around him. He was the anointed king and he trusted in God's power. Besides, he had done his real training in the pasture, and compared to a lion or a bear, Goliath was not terribly impressive.

► **How is the truth that "God looks at the heart" both bad news and good news for you?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"The text calls us not to admire David the man and no more, but to ponder what the Spirit of God may do with one person." – D. A. Carson

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some expectations our family holds for Christian leaders? How can we better pray for those leaders?**
- 2. In what ways are we sometimes guilty of judging by appearance? As a family, how can we guard against this?**
- 3. What does this familiar story teach our family about the type of people God wants to mold us into as His followers?**
- 4. How can we pray for and support each other as we make changes in our lives?**

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Scripture

1 Samuel 18:1-3; 19:1-7; 23:15-18

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God's people need godly friendships.

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

Covenants are a beautiful form of commitment, but they always come at a cost. Jonathan's covenant with David, by human standards, cost him almost everything. That's what sacrifice means—giving up something and committing to something greater. And this is where we see Jonathan risking his own welfare for the sake of his friend.

Jonathan had nothing to gain in his relationship with David, but had everything to lose. He lived out his covenant friendship even when things got difficult. When adversity struck David, Jonathan was there. When death seemed certain, Jonathan was there. When the odds were stacked against David, Jonathan was there.

- ▶ **What does it mean to love someone as much as you love yourself? How would your relationships look different if you lived this way?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light." – Helen Keller

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What does the word *commitment* mean to us as a family? How can we work to create covenant bonds with our friends, like the bond between David and Jonathan?**
- 2. What are some ways our family can commit to showing consistent kindness to our friends?**
- 3. The gospel is the greatest act of friendship in history. How does this provide the best model for our friendships? How can our family imitate Jesus in our relationships with others?**

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Scripture

2 Samuel 7:8-26

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God doesn't need us—we need 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

Christianity is not about you living a good life and then giving your record to God, but Jesus living the perfect life and then giving His record to you, as a gift. He lived the life we were supposed to live and died the death we should have died. His life is ours, but only if we receive it.

- ▶ **Have you ever struggled with the mindset that you have to repay God for the grace and mercy He has shown you? Why do you think people often feel this way?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“In this house God's people shall everlastingly dwell with their God and in their God, and God with His people and in His people, God filling His people, His people filled with their God, so that ‘God may be all in all’—the very same God being their prize in peace who was their strength in battle.” – Augustine

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 need rest? Why is God's promise of rest in Him so important to us?**
- 2. How does our family respond to God's blessings in our lives? How can we respond with more joy and thanksgiving?**
- 3. Do we struggle with overcommitting in order to try to please God? What is wrong with this outlook?**
- 4. As a family, what steps can we take to look at salvation as the gift that it is instead of trying to earn His grace and mercy?**

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Scripture

2 Samuel 11:1-5,6-17,26-27; Psalm 51:1-13

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

A true mark of a Christian life is one of continual repentance.

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2. Thought From the Study

Fortunately for David, God chose to expose what David had covered up. He sent the prophet Nathan to remind David that although he thought he had gotten away with everything, God wouldn't let it end there. And in a moment of profound humility, David finally came clean.

► **What parts of David's confession stand out to you? What parts can you easily identify with?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"When you allow your eyes to feast on the forbidden, the result will be great folly." – Johnny Hunt

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 to pay attention to areas of vulnerability and temptation?**
- 2. What are some ways we can hold each other accountable in avoiding temptation?**
- 3. How can our family members encourage one another to live in continual repentance?**
- 4. How would our family look different if we lived this way?**

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

1 Kings 3:5-28; 4:29-34

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Wisdom comes from God, and He freely gives wisdom to those who seek 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

Solomon could have asked for all sorts of things, but he chose to request wisdom. Below, we will look closely at two things about this prayer: Solomon's posture in the prayer and his purpose for the prayer.

Notice how Solomon saw himself as he prayed. He admitted that he had no business being the king of such a great people, and he recognized that he was there only by divine appointment. God placed him there, and it was an act of God's grace.

► Why is Solomon's humble approach a good model for the way we should go before God?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Wisdom should not be equated with intellectual giftedness or philosophical brilliance. Wisdom expresses itself in the way one lives. Human beings do not have the capacity to acquire wisdom on their own, for that would require ascending to heaven, and thus those who are wise put their trust in the words revealed by God." —Tom Schreiner

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What can Solomon's approach to God teach our family about making requests to God?**
- 2. In what areas does our family need to pray for wisdom? What situations specifically come to mind?**
- 3. Share about a time when you felt that the Lord granted you wisdom in the midst of a difficult decision that impacted our entire family. How did His guidance change the way we handled the situation?**

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Scripture

Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:1-8; 22:1-10

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Wisdom isn't merely information, but transformation of one's character intended to be lived out.

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

Proverbs is a practical book. And that should come as no surprise since wisdom is about life. Wisdom is truth in action. God wants us not only to know things, but to do things. Solomon intended for his hearers to actually live out the truths and sayings he put forth.

► **How has this session challenged you when it comes to pursuing biblical wisdom in your own life?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Except a man fear the Lord, he is unable to renounce sin." – Ambrose

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. Where does our family tend to look for wisdom and instruction? What are some ways we can do better at seeking God's wisdom?**
- 2. Who stands out to our family as someone who consistently displays biblical wisdom? What are some characteristics we admire about them?**
- 3. How can we pursue biblical wisdom in our day to day lives as a family?**

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Scripture

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:10-14,54-61

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Far from being a distant deity, God has always desired 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

On that day, Israel received the blessing of God Himself. This is the greatest blessing that God can give to His people—His presence. In fact, we see all throughout the Bible that God's intention has always been to dwell among His people.

- ▶ **How did God dwell among His people in the following passages: Genesis 1–3; Exodus 29:42-46; Ezekiel 10:18; Matthew 1:23; and Revelation 21:3?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.”

—C. S. Lewis

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some ways our family currently honors God's name? How can we do this more often, or in new ways?**
- 2. God's purpose is to spread His name for His glory. How can our family keep from thinking that our relationship with God is all about what He can do for us?**
- 3. When has our family truly sensed the reality of God's presence? What was it about that situation that convinced us it was the Spirit working?**
- 4. Our attitude toward gathering with other believers affects our worship. How can our family prepare for worship to make it more meaningful and edifying?**

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Scripture

1 Kings 11:1-13; Luke 11:31

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Foolishness is the failure to give God glory in every area of life.

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

Solomon's sin began when he decided to disregard the Lord's commands. Before God brought Israel to the promised land, He gave them specific commands about how kings were to conduct themselves. They were not to gather much gold and horses for themselves, and they were not to acquire many wives (Deut. 17:14-20). If they did, their hearts would go astray.

We see this fleshed out in Solomon's life. He acquired much wealth, vast amounts of horses and chariots, and he had 1000 women in his court. The result? His heart was led astray.

► **How is your focus sometimes divided between God and other people or your possessions?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"In a word, so many objects as there are in the world, wherein men seek happiness instead of seeking it in God, so many idols they set up in their hearts, so many species of idolatry they practice." —John Wesley

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. People and possessions can distract us from following God. How can we lock our focus on Him and His ways?**
- 2. What are some ways our family can love others without allowing them to become more important to us than God?**
- 3. Our sin has negative consequences within our family and affects others. What is one way we can make a point to remember that our sins affect others as well?**

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Scripture

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 3:16-4:3; 12:9-14

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Because God exists, life has meaning and purpose.

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 opening verses of Ecclesiastes introduce us to the question: Does life have meaning? While Solomon's response initially seems to be quite gloomy and sorrowful, it is important to realize that Solomon is presenting two very different pictures to his readers—a life without God and a life with God. After reflecting on a world without God, Solomon comes to the conclusion that all life under this scenario would be meaningless and futile.

▶ **Do you tend to look at the world through the lens of your circumstances or through the lens of your hope in Christ?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“What is true of the universe and of the human race is also true of us as individuals...If God does not exist, then you are just a miscarriage of nature, thrust into a purposeless universe to live a purposeless life.” —William Lane Craig

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. How does faith in Christ keep our family from giving in to a negative view of life?**
- 2. In what way does our family view our purpose? How do we answer the question “What are we on earth for?”**
- 3. What are some ways our family can look to Jesus for the answers to life's deepest questions?**

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

Job 1:6-12,20-22; 16:1-5,18-22; 40:1-5; 42:7-9

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God may not always explain the reason for our suffering, but He does always draw near to comfort us when we suffer.

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

But what we learn from Job—who asked lots of questions—is that what we need most in times of suffering is God. We need His presence, His voice, and His nearness when we are suffering. The greatest thing God can give us when we suffer is more of Himself.

If nothing else, Job learned that suffering reminds us that we are not God. Suffering has a way of humbling us and reminding us that we don't have control over our lives. Job also learned that even though suffering is often beyond our control, God comes near to us during those times.

► **How is God different from us? How is His view different than ours? What is the problem with our point of view?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"The picture of God in the Bible is of One who suffers, and when the mask is torn off life and we see all its profound and vast misery, the suffering, sorrowing God is the only One who does not mock us." – Oswald Chambers

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some ways our family typically responds to suffering?**
- 2. How can our family view suffering differently, in light of God's purpose for it, the next time we experience a difficult situation?**
- 3. In what ways did this passage remind us that God is God and we are not?**
- 4. How would a greater understanding of the power and character of God help our family when we are hurting?**

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

Psalms 1; 100; 110

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Worship is bringing glory to God for His Word, His works, and His promise.

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2. Thought From the Study

Our witness flows from our worship. And yet our worship is also part of our witness! When we show our love for God, outsiders see us transfixed by God's beauty and desire to see that God for themselves.

► **What are some benefits of spending time in God's Word?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express that same delight in God which made David dance." – C. S. Lewis

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some tools our family currently uses to help us focus on God's Word and fellowship with Him through prayer? What is at least one other tool we could use?**
- 2. Does our family read God's Word together or attend a worship service out of duty or delight? How can we constantly go before God with an attitude of delight?**
- 3. When has God demonstrated His faithfulness to our family? How do the Psalms help us remember His faithfulness?**
- 4. How can we model our own prayers after the Psalms?**