

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

Numbers 13:1-2,26-33; 14:1-20

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Even through our faithlessness, God remains faithful.

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 face of the dangers present in the promised land, all but two of the spies lost their faith. Joshua and Caleb were ready to forge ahead, but they were outnumbered by spies who believed the fortified cities were too great for God to overcome. When their faith had faltered, and their eyes were no longer on the promise, they only saw an unconquerable force before them.

► **How does fear sometimes keep you from following God's plan?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens." —J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some obstacles our family is currently facing?**
- 2. What are some difficult situations God has delivered us from in the past?**
- 3. How can remembering God's faithfulness to our family in the past help us to remain faithful to Him moving forward?**
- 4. What are some practical ways we can encourage one another to remain strong in our faith and trust God through difficult times?**

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

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The bronze serpent points to both God's punishment of sin and His salvation through Jesus.

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 response to the Israelites' rebellion, God acted quickly. He punished them. It was the type of punishment that would strike fear into the heart of any person. Suddenly, poisonous snakes showed up in the camp. Biting. Infecting. Killing. The people's break in their trust of God was a serious offense. The Lord would not take it lightly. When they spoke out against their circumstances, they were speaking directly against God's character.

As the rebellious people began to die, they cried out to Moses for help. Once God heard the people's penitent cry, He provided a way of restoration through their faith. In an act of divine irony, God instructed Moses to make a serpent of bronze and place it on a pole. If those bitten by the snakes on the ground would look to the snake that had been lifted up, they would be healed.

- ▶ **When have you become impatient with God? Did your impatience cause you to grumble about what He had or hadn't done?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Jesus became what was killing us—sin itself—when he was lifted up on the cross and thereby became the remedy for sin." —Nancy Guthrie, *The Lamb of God*

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some instructions or answers our family is waiting to hear from God?**
- 2. How can we remain patient as we continue to wait to hear from Him? Why is this important?**
- 3. What are we supposed to do as we wait for God?**
- 4. How can our patience in waiting for God be a testimony to others of our faith and trust in Him?**

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

Joshua 3:5-17; 4:19-24

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Genuine faith involves trusting in God and His future promises.

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

God demonstrated His approval and support of Joshua as His chosen leader of Israel publicly so the Israelites could see that just as God had sanctioned Moses, He was now sanctioning Joshua. The people were to respond by respecting him as they had done with Moses. Their response would require faith—faith in God and faith in Joshua as their leader.

- ▶ **When have you been reluctant to trust a new coach or new teacher?**
 - ▶ **Do you think you would be more apt to trust that person if you knew God had a purpose for placing him or her in that position? Explain.**
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3. Quote for Discussion

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

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” —Corrie ten Boom

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. How does our family typically respond to situations that challenge our faith?**
- 2. What are some practices we have established as parents to help pass our faith along to you?**
- 3. What stories or testimonies have you heard from members of our family that have strengthened your own faith?**
- 4. What fears keep you from sharing your faith with others? How can we help one another overcome our fears and testify to God's power?**

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

Joshua 6:1-5,15-25

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God fights on behalf of His people when they respond in obedience.

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2. Thought From the Study

God used a seemingly foolish battle plan to accomplish His purpose. As Paul says in the New Testament, "God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor. 1:27). Throughout this action plan, we see that the Israelites must be involved. God will execute what the Israelites implement. God's people must participate in the battle of Jericho by marching around the city, and as a result God will give them victory by bringing down the walls. By acting in faith, these massive walls will implode upon themselves without a bulldozer or a wrecking ball because God Himself will bring them down.

► **Have you ever questioned something you sensed God leading you to do? If so, how did you respond?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." —Augustine of Hippo

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What obstacles do we as a family sometimes see as insurmountable?**
- 2. When have we been surprised by the way God has worked things out for our family in the past?**
- 3. What are some ways we can help one another focus on and obey God's plans instead of on our fears or our own abilities?**
- 4. How well would you say our family displays our faith "in action"? When has this helped us share our faith "in words"?**

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Scripture

Joshua 7:1-12,19-8:2

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Sin has consequences not only for ourselves, but also for those around us.

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2. Thought From the Study

Achan had opportunities to repent. Each time he entered his tent, he knew of his stolen hidden treasure. When Joshua instructed the people to consecrate themselves (Josh. 7:13), Achan should have repented during the process of consecration. Even before Joshua isolated Achan's family, Achan could have repented. Instead, because he hid his sin, Israel suffered a terrible defeat, and Achan lost everything—his life, his possessions, and his family. Sin resulted in death, and only after sin was dealt with could Israel move forward in victory.

- ▶ **Recall a time when your sin affected more than just yourself. How might considering the impact of your actions help you to obey God and make better choices in the future?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next.” —Elisabeth Elliot

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What aspects of God's goodness does our family sometimes take for granted? How might this attitude affect our obedience to Him?**
- 2. When have you seen a poor choice by one member of our family lead to negative consequences for all of us?**
- 3. What are some practical ways we can hold one another accountable to living in obedience to God?**

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Scripture

Joshua 24:14-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God's grace and mercy are what motivate His people to live in obedience to 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

Joshua offered the Israelites a choice. If it seemed evil for them to serve the Lord, then they could direct their allegiance to the false gods their ancestors served beyond the river and whom God proved were fakes. They could choose to serve the gods of the Amorites who resided in the promised land where they were now dwelling, the gods whom Yahweh defeated. The choice was theirs.

Joshua did not offer them the luxury of neutrality—they could not serve the one true God of Israel in addition to their false idols. And then, in one of the great acknowledgments of an individual's undivided loyalty to God, Joshua affirmed that he and his house would serve the Lord.

The people responded to Joshua with a congregational "Amen!" This was their verbal understanding that it would be ridiculous to forsake the Lord in order to serve false gods. This commitment was based upon God's involvement in their history. They knew it was the Lord who had worked wonders from Abraham's time to Joshua's in order to keep His promise to Abraham (Gen. 12)—the promise that now had reached a level of fulfillment in their own time. The motivation for Israel to serve the Lord and proclaim Him as their God was God's faithfulness to them.

► **What idols do you need to get rid of in order to worship God in "sincerity and truth"?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"We are products of our past, but we don't have to be prisoners of it." —Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Why is it important for our family to act in ways that line up with what we say we believe?

2. Joshua committed himself and his family to serving the Lord. What are some practical ways our family can cultivate this same commitment?

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Scripture

Judges 2:11-19

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Judgment of sin occurs when people turn from God and do what they think is right in their own eyes.

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

Forgetting the promises of the Lord leads to making decisions apart from the Lord. They did what was "evil in the LORD's sight." God, not us, determines what is right and good, and what is sin and evil. This is the calling card of sin: We think we know better than God. The Book of Judges may be best known for the last verse of the book that sums up what sin is: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever he wanted" (Judg. 21:25).

► **Have you ever been unfaithful to God because you were more concerned about yourself than obeying Him? Explain.**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"It is not our being in the world that ruins us, but our suffering the world to be in us: just as ships sink, not by being in the water, but by the water getting into them!" —A.R. Faussett

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What causes our family to lose focus on God sometimes? What is the danger in this?**
- 2. What are some ways we can fight against doing what is right in our own eyes and obeying God instead?**
- 3. How can we be sure we "pass on" our faith to the next generation in our family?**

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Scripture

Judges 4:1-7,12-16; 5:1-11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God equips His people with gifts to be used for His glory and for their good.

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

Barak demonstrated faith, and he obeyed by preparing an army of 10,000 men. Barak used the gifts God gave him to walk in faithfulness. He knew his role. He knew his part in the story was small and not for his own glory, but for the glory of God.

Faith is what leads us to be courageous when facing impossible odds. Faith is demonstrated by our belief and obedience, our trusting in God and desire to obey Him in faith. Our faith is not rooted in our gifting, or found in our skills, or propped up by our ambitions. Our faith is in the word of God and in His unshakable character. As the people of God, we build our lives on the promises of God. No other foundation is stable.

► **How do you typically respond when you are facing what seem to be impossible odds?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"This is a life of faith, for God will try the truth of our faith, so that the world may see that God has such servants as will depend upon His bare word." —Richard Sibbes

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What are some gifts God has blessed the members of our family with?**
- 2. How can we use our gifts in service to Him?**
- 3. In what ways has our family faced opposition when it comes to our faith?**
- 4. In what ways does our family give God the glory when He works through us? Why is it important that we do this?**

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Scripture

Judges 6:11-16,36-40; 7:16-22

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God works through our weaknesses and empowers us to accomplish His will.

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2. Thought From the Study

Gideon protested against God's commission on the basis of his inadequacy ("I am the youngest in my father's house!"). God's response ("I will be with you") was a reminder that the power of deliverance was not in Gideon, but in God's presence. The scene reminds us of how Moses responded when God commissioned Him. In both cases, the problem is one of perspective. Both Gideon and Moses first looked to themselves for their source of strength and acknowledged their deficiency. But God called them to turn their eyes to Him and His adequacy.

► **What is something you've faced in the past that you didn't understand? How did it affect your faith?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"God has a long track record of calling people the world thinks are lightweights, cowards, or no good and making them great in His service." —Oswald Chambers

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. On a scale of 1 (no trust at all) to 10 (complete trust), how well would you rate your trust in God's presence and power—especially when you are afraid?**
- 2. When has an experience of going through a difficult time brought our family closer to God?**
- 3. How does remembering God's presence in that time comfort you still today?**
- 4. What are some specific situations you anticipate facing this week? How can we pray about those for you?**

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Scripture

Judges 14:1-9; 16:4-5,15-30

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God works even through the defeat of sinful leaders to bring about His plan.

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2. Thought From the Study

It is through man's brokenness that God puts His own glory on display. At the end of his life, Samson cried out to God for enough strength to defeat the enemies of God's people who were present. God reached down into the brokenness of the judge who was chosen before his birth, and for the good of His people He answered Samson's prayer. He rescued His people despite their total unbelief. Samson's downfall was the result of his own disobedience, and yet God used his death to begin the deliverance of His people.

- ▶ **It took humiliation and weakness to finally get Samson's attention. What are some circumstances God can use (or has used) to get your attention and draw you back to Him?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Samson's strength belonged to the Spirit of the Lord. In Samson was the vessel, but the fullness was in the Spirit. A vessel can be filled and emptied." —Ambrose

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What successes might members of our family be tempted to put their trust in rather than in God?**
- 2. How can we help one another maintain a strong sense of dependence on God?**
- 3. God was patient with Samson, and showed him mercy. When have we experienced the patient love and mercy of God?**
- 4. How does this story encourage you to use your God-given gifts for His glory and not your own?**

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Scripture

Ruth 1:1-9,16-18; 2:1-3,8-12; 4:13-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God shows steadfast love and undeserved kindness to those who trust in 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

The most important question in this book comes from Ruth: "Why are you so kind to notice me, although I am a foreigner?" (v. 10) Boaz's answer, on the surface, sounded like he was doing so because Ruth had been so good to her mother-in-law, Naomi. But the real answer comes in verse 12 when Boaz said that she had come to take refuge under the wings of the God of Israel. In other words, "This kindness is coming to you from the Lord, through me, because of your faith in God." All of Ruth's noble actions were a demonstration of her faith in the Lord. She'd chosen the Lord over any earthly comforts.

► **What would you be willing to sacrifice to meet the physical needs of a friend? to meet their spiritual needs?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. Switchback after switchback. And the point of biblical stories like Joseph and Job and Esther and Ruth is to help us feel in our bones (not just know in our heads) that God is for us in all these strange turns. God is not just showing up after the trouble and cleaning it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far-reaching purposes for our good and for the glory of Jesus Christ." —John Piper, *A Sweet and Bitter Providence: Sex, Race, and the Sovereignty of God*

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. How does our family show love to one another in the middle of pain and tragedy?**
- 2. Ruth made incredible sacrifices to remain with Naomi. What are some sacrifices our family has made for one another?**
- 3. In what ways might our family's love for one another be a reflection to others of God's love?**
- 4. How has God proven His "unyielding" and steadfast love to us? to you personally?**

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 3:1–4:1

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God's people are called to hear, obey, and share God's Word with others.

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

Eli called for Samuel the next morning to find out what the word of God was. Samuel told Eli everything. In this critical moment, Samuel walked in obedience to the word of the Lord. He chose to fear God rather than man. The ministry of Samuel for the rest of his days would be marked by this unwavering commitment to speak the truth to God's people. His message continued to ring out through Israel. He grew to be a great prophet who would anoint both Saul and David as the first two kings of Israel.

- ▶ **Do you find yourself actively listening for God to speak through a sermon or Bible study you are attending? What are some things within our lives that might hinder us from listening?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"The Spirit who inspired Scripture is the Spirit who illuminates Scripture. He speaks through God's Word in order to make us wise." —J.D. Greear and Trevin Wax

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What kinds of routines or activities has our family established to make sure we spend time in God's Word?**
- 2. When have you heard God speaking to you, only to be convicted rather than comforted?**
- 3. How can we be faithful in delivering God's words of truth to others?**
- 4. When speaking the truth of God's Word to others, why is it important to pay attention to our tone or the way we speak it? Is this something our family does well when it comes to speaking truth to one another? If not, how can we do better?**

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

Philippians 2:5-11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Christians are called to follow Jesus' example of serving others in humility.

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 Son of God left the perfection of heaven, He did not consider the use of His privileges more important than the plan of God to save us through the ultimate act of humiliation on the cross. Again, no one has ever faced such humiliation. And yet, this humiliation is part of His triumph.

- ▶ **What did Jesus give up in order to save us?**
- ▶ **What does it look like today when someone gives up his or her own interests for the work of Christ?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

"His humbling was not undertaken as a slave in relation to a master's command. Rather, he willingly undertook the saving work on our behalf. He obeyed as a son, not as a slave." —Theodoret of Cyrus

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. In what ways have we shown a willingness to serve one another in our family.**
- 2. We often find joy in giving of ourselves to help the people we love. Would you be willing to do the same for a total stranger? Why or why not?.**
- 3. When have you given up certain privileges to serve or support a family member? What was the result of your sacrifice?**
- 4. How well does our family as a whole display the "attitude of Christ" in the way we serve people in our community? at church?**