

*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**

Genesis 1:1-25; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**In the beginning, God created everything, and He created everything 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

As a human being, a believer represents humanity. The creation of humanity was set apart as the apex of all of God's creation (day six holds one more creation of God—the focus of session 2). No other creation of God can tell the glory of God like a human being because no other creation bears the image of God. The heavens, mountains, and oceans are proclaiming the glory of God, but not like we can display it. Every single person we see and encounter is, by nature, showing us something of God Himself. As believers, we carry the greatest light of God's general revelation, but we also bear the light of God's special revelation. God has commanded to shine in your heart the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

► **When have you experienced the goodness of God's creation? How did it make you feel?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" –Abraham Kuyper**

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## 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 understand that God created everything through the Son?
2. How can seeing each other as God's creations strengthen our family relationship?
3. Why is belief in creation important? How does this belief shape our family's ability to know God?
4. How does understanding that we were created to declare God's glory motivate our family to live on mission for 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**

Genesis 1:26-2:25

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God created humanity in His image.**

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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

To bear God's image means to have a relationship with Him. Our image-bearing started when God created us. The account in Genesis shows how powerful a scene this was—when God's face was toward us, when He breathed into the first man the breath of life. Just as a mirror best reflects an image when the mirror is directly in front of the object, we reflect God's image best when we are in close relationship with Him.

► **In what ways can your life demonstrate the priority of your relationship with God? What are some signs that your relationship with God is not your priority?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**“Work, whether it involves plumbing a sink or plumbing the depths of the cosmos, in the hands of a Christian is ministry.” —Ben Witherington**

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## 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 understand that God created everything in His image?
2. How might knowing that you were created in God's image help you better understand Him?
3. Why is it important that we reflect God in the way we work?
4. In what ways can our family do better at reflecting the image of God to others?

*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**

Genesis 3:1-24

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**Sin corrupts the goodness of God's creation.**

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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Because of sin, Adam and Eve were banished from paradise. Their sin separated them from God's presence. When God's own Son was born into this world, He undid everything that went wrong in Genesis 3. He answered the question that Satan put in our hearts: "Is God good? Does He intend good for us? Can we trust Him?" He answered that question with the nails in His hands and a spear through His side—with His becoming sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21).

► **Are you more likely to see your sin as a "mistake" or "failure" or as an act of rebellion? What is the difference and how does it impact your perspective?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"A lot of people think that 'sin' is just breaking a rule. What is at stake here is something deeper, bigger, sadder, uglier, more heinous. It is a revolution. It makes me God and thus de-gods God." —D.A. Carson**

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## 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 understand sin as rebellion toward God?
2. How can recognizing sin for what it is strengthen our family relationship?
3. In what ways do we see the effects of sin in the world? How should our family respond to the brokenness caused by sin?
4. How does understanding that Christ came to take away the guilt of our sin motivate our family to live for 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**

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**Sin spreads throughout the hearts and actions of 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The promised mercy of God is what overcomes sin, and this is why we look to God for salvation and power in our mission. As Christians, we see ourselves in the person of Cain, but we also see ourselves in light of the cross. The cross is where God displayed the fullness of His justice by pouring out His wrath toward sin. The cross is where God displayed the fullness of His mercy by extending grace to us through His Son. And now, we seek to slow the spread of sin by pointing others to the God who forgives, transforms, and grants repentance.

► **How do you respond when you recognize the sin in your own life? Do you seek forgiveness?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The ultimate Abel, the ultimate man of faith, the only true and literally innocent man came into the world and we—Cains all—killed him. But this was not a random accident. This one came into the world to be our substitute, to bear the curse that we Cains deserved." —Tim Keller**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. In what ways has jealousy gotten in the way of our family relationships?
2. Why is it important for our family to model forgiveness toward one another?
3. How can holding one another accountable when facing temptation strengthen our family?
4. How well does our family model God's response to sin, not with fierce accusations but with an invitation to repent?

*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**

Genesis 6:5-22; 9:1-11

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God judges sin and provides salvation 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Noah's family was saved not on the basis of their righteousness but on the basis of Noah's righteousness. They were saved because they belonged to Noah. Likewise, we're not saved by our own works but by the work of Jesus alone, and we're saved only if we belong to Him. However, where Noah could only save seven members of his family, God has given to Jesus people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. The family of Jesus will be so much larger than the family of Noah.

► **What are some positive characteristics of Noah that we can emulate as we seek to live on mission for God?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The story of Noah and the ark shouts to all those who persist in living apart from God about what is to come. It invites all to accept God's offer of protection and safety found only by being united to Christ." —Nancy Guthrie**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are some things our family does that might grieve God? What steps can we take to change?
2. What can our family learn about God's love for us through His love for Noah?
3. How can seeing God as a loving father help us to model grace to one another?
4. God demonstrated His commitment to us through saving Noah. How can we demonstrate our commitment to one another?

*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**

Genesis 11:1-9

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God judges and disrupts human attempts to thwart His glory.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

In Genesis 11, God confused the language of those who sought to make known the greatness of their own name and of their own kingdom. Thousands of years later, at Pentecost, God tore down the language barrier so that His people would scatter across the world and make known the great name of His Son. Not only that, but this theme of judgment combined with mercy found throughout Genesis and the rest of the Old Testament points to the cross of Jesus. The cross is the ultimate display of both God's judgment and His mercy. At the cross, God fully poured out His wrath against our sin, but He also poured out the fullness of His mercy and grace when He let His own Son take the punishment for our sin.

► **How can we tell if we are pursuing success apart from a relationship with God?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The real attitude of sin in the heart towards God is that of being without God; it is pride, the worship of myself, that is the great atheistic fact in human life." —Oswald Chambers**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How well would you say we pursue humility and fight pride in our family?
2. Why is it so important for our family to consult God in the decisions we make?
3. What are some successes our family has experienced? Did we take the credit for those or did we glorify God?
4. What are some practical ways our family can make sure we are working to advance God's kingdom, not our own desires?

*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**

Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 17:1-14

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God chooses a nation through which He will reverse the curse of sin and reclaim the world as His kingdom.**

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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

In Galatians 3, the apostle Paul pointed to Abraham's faith as a model of saving faith. Paul argued that we are not justified (declared righteous before God) by trying to keep the rules (Gal. 3:11). Those who break God's law are cursed, and we're all law-breakers. But the good news is that Christ became that curse for us on the cross (3:13). Justification only comes through faith in Jesus, and just as with Abraham, God credits His righteousness to our account (3:6-7). Today, we too are called to trust the promises of God.

► **What kind of person will a rules-focused life cause us to become? Do you think that's what God wants?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"Saving faith is faith in God's provision, not our performance." —Tim Keller, *Galatians for You***

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## 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 live every day in obedience to God?
2. How does the way our family lives affect our mission as God's people?
3. How can obeying God even when we don't understand how He is working strengthen our family relationship?
4. In what ways could our family do better when it comes to trusting God with the future?

*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**

Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**Faith is trusting in God to keep His promise to provide salvation.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The theme of substitution is at the heart of Christianity, and the theme of the substitute lamb runs throughout the Bible. Abraham said that God would provide a lamb. As we will see in future sessions, at the Passover a lamb's blood was shed as a substitute for the life of a firstborn son in Israel (firstborn sons just like Isaac). That sacrifice caused the death angel to pass over them. Also, on the Day of Atonement animals were given in place of the Israelites as substitute sacrifices. All of these stories point forward to the moment when the Lord Jesus Himself would die as the sacrifice for our sins (see 1 Cor. 5:7). God provided His only begotten Son as the substitute for the world.

► **Why is it important for us to trust in the provision of God and not in our own work?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The God who is there does not demand that we sacrifice our children; instead, in sovereign grace He provides a sacrifice."  
—D. A. Carson, *The God Who Is There***

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What can our family learn from Abraham's story about obedience to God?
2. Like Abraham, we may not always know when we are being tested. Looking back, when has our family's faith been tested?
3. How can the testing of our faith strengthen our family relationship?
4. In what ways has our family become more obedient to Christ as a result of our faith being tested?



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**

Genesis 25:19-26; 26:1-6

## 1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

**God promises to be faithful to His people even when they show themselves to be unworthy of His love.**

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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The horrible circumstances (starvation) and the unworthy characters that Isaac and his sons turn out to be make us wonder if God will truly keep the promise He has made. Can human disobedience or natural disasters keep Him from being true to His word? The promises of land, offspring, and blessing were once again in jeopardy, but God took this opportunity to restate the promises to Isaac. God told Isaac to remain in the land of Gerar as a foreigner, and He promised to be with Isaac and to bless him. Then He promised to give this land—even the territory of the Gentiles—to Isaac and his offspring. He again promised offspring for Isaac as numerous as the stars, and He foretold that Isaac's offspring would bless all the nations of the earth. Why did He do this? God restated these promises because Isaac's father, Abraham, obeyed His commands.

► **What are some ways you have seen God keep His promises in your life or in the life of someone you know?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The supreme blessing in Isaac's life was not material possessions, but the Lord Himself. 'I am with you,' God said to Isaac." —Willem VanGemenen, *Gospel Transformation Bible***

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## 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 understand that God keeps His promises?
2. What are some promises we've seen God keep to our family?
3. How can our family stand on the promises of God we see in Genesis? How does this help us grow in love and obedience to Him?
4. How does knowing that God can use our family to accomplish His plan motivate us to share the gospel?

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

Genesis 27:1-40; 28:10-22

## 1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

**God is sovereign over all of life, and will work out His plan of redemption despite and sometimes through our dysfunction.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Genesis paints an unflattering picture of Abraham and his offspring. We see them lie, cheat, and manipulate. Abraham and Isaac both passed their wives off as their sisters in order to take the heat off themselves (Gen. 12:11-13; 26:7). Isaac played favorites with his son Esau; so did his wife, Rebekah, with Jacob. Rebekah and Jacob were willing to deceive in order to get what they wanted. In spite of all of this scheming, God continued to be gracious. He kept His promises. His plan to redeem the world will not be thwarted by human cunning and sin.

► **What hope does it give you to know that God works even through our deceit and sinfulness to accomplish His plan?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"In the great mystery of grace, God commandeers even our stupid decisions to accomplish His purposes in us."**

—J. D. Greear, *Jesus Continued*

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. In what ways is our family similar to Isaac and Rebekah's? What can we learn from their example?
2. How can the truth that God is always working out His plan help our family face difficult times?
3. Is it reassuring to you to know that we can't get in the way of God's plan? Why or why not?
4. What are some ways our family can engage in God's mission to bless all people of the earth?

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**

Genesis 32:24-32; 35:9-15

## 1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

**Encountering God leads to a fundamental change of identity 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

In Scripture, we see that God's purpose in blessing His people is not so they will hoard the blessing to themselves. God blesses His people so that they will be a blessing to others. God changes people so that they can be agents of change for others. We see in Jacob's life that God blessed and changed him so that Jacob—Israel—would be the means by which God brought change and blessing to the whole world.

► **In what ways do our past mistakes haunt and define us?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"It often takes an experience of crippling weakness for us to finally discover [God's blessing]. That is why so many of the most God-blessed people limp as they dance for joy." –Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods***

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## 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 forgive one another's past mistakes?
2. For what have you been shown grace in our family?
3. What difficult circumstances has God used to lead our family to him? What positive changes did you see take place in our relationship with one another and with God as a result?
4. What are some ways God has blessed our family? How can we use what He has given us to bless others?

*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**

Genesis 37:3-11,23-28; 39:6b-23

**1. Opening Statement**

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God is sovereign over our lives and can use suffering to accomplish His plans in and through us.**

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.

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**2. Thought From the Study**

Joseph's life points forward to Jesus. Jesus would be betrayed, handed over to captivity, stripped of His robe, and killed through an unjust sentence. But the rejection and humiliation of Jesus was God's plan to save Israel and the world! Jesus looked abandoned by God, as if His cries to the Father went unanswered, but when that grave opened on Sunday morning, it was clear He was not alone. God vindicated His Son. We get a glimpse of this plan in Joseph's life. He suffered. It seemed as if he were abandoned, but God was with him and God was accomplishing His good plan. Joseph succeeded even in captivity, and his humiliation would eventually lead to God's exaltation to bless Israel and all nations (see Gen. 12; Phil. 2).

► **Why do we sometimes envy God's plan for someone else's life rather than accept the one He has laid out for us?**

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**3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**"The will of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us." –Billy Graham**

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**4. Conversation Questions**

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

1. Have you ever been envious of someone else's family? Why or why not?
2. Why is it important for us to trust God and live out our lives according to His plan?
3. What are some difficulties our family has faced that prepared us to handle future challenges and blessings?
4. How can we use our past experiences and challenges to encourage others?

*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**

Genesis 41:46-57; 45:1-15; 50:15-21

## 1. Opening Statement

*Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:*

**God is sovereign and will bring good out of evil circumstances.**

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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Joseph's life was a preview of the coming Messiah who would forgive those who wronged Him. Joseph knew that God used his brothers' sinful actions to save many people. Jesus would be mistreated, betrayed for silver, handed over to captivity, and ultimately executed at the hands of evil men. While He was being crucified, He looked down at the ones killing and forgave them. On the cross, He secured saving forgiveness for the world, and then God highly exalted Him, so that the nations of the world would stream to Him, bow their knee and confess Him as Lord (see Phil. 2:5-11). Evil men killed the Messiah, but God used even their evil deeds to accomplish His goal of salvation.

► **Why is it so difficult for us to forgive those who wrong us? What is it about forgiveness that is so painful?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**"The cross shows us that God can take the worst possible evil and through it accomplish the greatest possible good—the destruction of evil itself." – Christopher Wright, *The God I Don't Understand***

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Why is it important not to hold grudges, especially in our family?
2. How can studying the Bible and praying together help us be patient with and forgive one another?
3. What are some challenges our family has faced that have drawn us closer together and closer to God?
4. What are some verses our family clings to when struggling to believe that God is in control?