

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

Matthew 1:1-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to 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 spite of the broken promises of so many kings, God would remain faithful to His promise concerning the eternal throne of David. In the end, the promise made to David was not about him. Matthew wanted readers to know it would be Jesus, David's direct descendant, who would perfectly keep the promise to walk in the Lord's ways. He would bless all nations, according to the promise made to Abraham. He would establish an eternal Kingdom, taking His seat on David's throne. Jesus would be the focus and fulfillment of every promise, every dream and every hope.

► **What does this parade of evil kings in Jesus' genealogy tell us about God's faithfulness to His covenant?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Jesus is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing wither he went to create a new people of God. Jesus is the true and better David whose victory becomes his people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves. –Tim Keller

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. The reality of Jesus' coming changed the lives of Matthew's readers. How does that reality change the course of our family's life, and the life of each person in our family?
2. God kept His promises to Abraham and David to one day send a Savior. What does God's faithfulness in keeping these promises show our family about God's character?
3. When has our family faced times of "spiritual exile"? How does the gospel of Christ deliver you from that?
4. How has this session challenged our family's understanding of Jesus' birth?

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Scripture

Luke 1:26-38,46-55

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Mary responded in faith to God's call on her 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

Mary's song concluded with a refrain that celebrates the truth that the world would be turned upside down. This is Luke's favorite theme of radical reversal, presented in poetic form.

Mary's language revealed a heart and mind that must have been saturated with the Psalms. For the moment, she became a psalmist herself. And, like David, she understood that the new hope being born into the world was based on an ancient hope.

► **Make a list of things Mary praised God for in verses 46-50. What are the common themes?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

What God did for the humble Mary was only the beginning of the great reversal of status that will eventually transform the whole world. — Takatemjen

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 the way Mary responded to the angel's message?
2. How does Mary's response—calling herself the Lord's servant and willingly submitting to His will—reveal the posture every faithful Christian should have? What does submitting to God's will look like for our family right now?
3. As a family, list two or three of your favorite songs that magnify the Lord for His goodness and mercy. Why do these songs resonate with you? What aspects of God's character do they celebrate?
4. What are some ways that our family can display the "upside-down" nature of Christ's kingdom? How do our lives challenge the values of the world with the values of the Kingdom?

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

Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus' birth story teaches that His kingdom is for all 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 humble birth of Jesus prepares us for one of the major themes we see throughout Luke's Gospel. Throughout his portrayal of the life and ministry of Jesus, Luke revealed that those who should understand Jesus' ministry rarely did. The wealthy, the educated, and the most religious missed what was happening. At the same time, those you'd never expect to understand what God was doing (the women, the poor, and the marginalized) intuitively grasped what Jesus' arrival meant.

- ▶ **Based upon these passages, how does the biblical description of Jesus' birth differ from our modern day understanding?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

God Himself came to be with us; to walk with us once again as He had done in Eden in the beginning. Jesus entered into our dark existence to share our broken world and to illuminate a different way forward. His coming was a sudden and glorious catastrophe of good. —Skye Jethani

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What can our family learn about God's character by looking at the conditions surrounding Jesus' birth?
2. As a family, list some proofs that our society tends to value the character quality of pride over that of humility? How is this understanding challenged in the story of Jesus' birth?
3. What is the significance of God revealing the news of Jesus' birth to shepherds first? How does this scene challenge the way our family thinks of worth and importance?
4. As a family, how can we demonstrate the beauty of God's love for those who are pushed to the side in our society?

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Scripture

Luke 2:40-52

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus modeled for us love for God's Word and obedience to God's will.

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

Jesus' kindness and compassion, as well as the moving words He spoke, drew men and women to Him throughout the brief years of His time on Earth. This is what He had in mind when He encouraged His followers to shine like lights in a darkened world. We are not to hide our lights, just as Jesus did not. Whatever the cost, we must risk gaining favor as Jesus gained favor, by engaging with the Word and the world around us.

- ▶ **Even though He is the Son of God, Jesus listened to and asked questions of the teachers in the temple. What can we learn from His example?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Jesus has chosen this crucial stage in his life, on the brink of manhood, to tell his parents in an unforgettable way that he now knows who his real Father is and what it will mean for His mission. —John Piper

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 cultivates a love of learning when it comes to God's Word? How can we improve in this area?
2. What was the connection between Jesus' love for God's Word and His involvement in God's work? In what ways do God's Word and God's work intersect the life of our family?
3. Like Jesus, what character qualities should our family try to cultivate in our lives in order to grow in favor with those around us?
4. Take a minute to allow each family member to answer the following: Have you grown up in a home with other Christians? If so, in what ways has that influence encouraged you to take ownership of your own faith?

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Scripture

Matthew 3:1-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus' baptism foreshadowed His death and resurrection.

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

Jesus had come from Galilee to the place where John baptized. In the Gospels, Jesus often surprises us—saying what we don't expect and doing what we wouldn't imagine. This moment is no exception. Jesus asked John to baptize Him.

In submitting to John's baptism, Jesus was not repenting. He took His place alongside those of us who do need to repent. He radically identified with His sinful people. In essence, He said, "I will take my place alongside sinners, I will identify with them even to the point of dying on the cross so that they might eventually be set free from their sins."

► **Why wasn't it enough the Pharisees to rely upon the faith of their when it came to their own lives?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Both by the words of the prophets and by John's own preaching, this one thing is clear: he had arrived, making a way and preparing it beforehand. John was not bestowing the gift, which was the remission of sins, but preparing beforehand the souls of those who would receive the God of all. —John Chrysostom

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How has this session strengthened our family's understanding of baptism?
2. As a family, discuss how you would explain to someone the importance of baptism based upon this session.
3. Why should Christians stress the importance of personal repentance today? How does this affect our family?
4. How can our family encourage one another to live in such a way that our actions match our words?
5. In what ways might cultivating humility keep our family from becoming like the Pharisees? Why is this important?

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Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus overcame temptation through the power of God's Word.

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

Like Adam and Eve and the children of Israel, we must also recognize our tendency to be faithless in spite of all God has given us. The temptation of Jesus shows us the One who remained steadfast and committed to trusting in the provision of God. We benefit from His victory and walk in His steps.

► **In what way did the Word of God sustain Jesus when the Devil tempted Him? How did this relate to Jesus' identity?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

The devil is working hard here to make sure Jesus doesn't suffer. It's interesting that every attack from what's evil is not built around absolute wickedness but more comfort. — Matt Chandler

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. As a family, consider this: Why is knowing who you are in Christ so important in the fight against sin?
2. What are some ways our family can encourage and strengthen one another as we battle sin and temptation?
3. Satan tried to manipulate the true meaning of God's Word in his attack on Jesus. What does this teach our family about our need to properly understand God's Word?
4. What are some ways we can begin to increase an appetite for God's Word in our family's life?

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Scripture

Matthew 16:13-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The call to follow Jesus includes a call to self-denial.

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

Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah was a major moment in the life and ministry of Jesus. According to Matthew, Jesus spoke about His coming death from that point on. Jesus' thoughts and actions turned toward the cross. From our perspective in history, we understand the reality and significance of Jesus' death; however, from their perspective beforehand, the disciples could hardly imagine the Messiah dying.

► What happens when we focus on the action of following apart from Jesus, the One we are called to follow?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Christianity in its very essence is a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed. —John Stott

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are some answers our family gives to the question: "Who do you say Jesus is?" What answers are good, but insufficient?
2. What important aspects of Jesus' identity are missing in the way most people, even our family at times, think of Him today?
3. Allow each family member to list a few reasons Jesus is more satisfying than any comfort the world has to offer.
4. How can our family avoid following Jesus as if it is only a task to accomplish? How can we willingly, wholeheartedly follow instead?

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Scripture

Matthew 4:17-22; 9:9-13

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Discipleship means faithfully following Jesus as Savior and Lord.

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 gospel message proclaims Jesus' perfect life, His death in our place, and His resurrection, and it tells us that Jesus is the only qualified Savior for sinners. We put our faith in Him, and we renounce our sin and self-righteous attempts at earning salvation. We turn away from our selfishness and sin in order to follow Jesus, the One who brings God's kingdom to earth.

- ▶ **Out of all the things Matthew could focus on, why do you think he summed up Jesus' preaching ministry with the call to repent? What does Matthew's summary say about the significance of repentance for the Christian life?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

People reviled Jesus. They called him a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Have you ever been called names like this? Have I? Do we fear contamination from the world more than we have confidence in Christ's power to cleanse? —Kevin DeYoung

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Why do you think the Pharisees felt offended by the people at the dinner? How does Jesus' response impact the way our family thinks about ministering to those in our schools, on the athletic fields, or within our homes?
2. What kinds of people should our family minister to? Why is it sometimes difficult to minister to all people?
3. As followers of Jesus, how can our family model His actions to those around us who are in need?
4. What are the advantages of setting aside selfish pursuits to follow after Christ? In what ways can our family work toward setting aside some of these pursuits?

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Scripture

John 3:1-21

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Regeneration is God's supernatural transformation of believers.

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 Moses' day, there was no cure apart from God's instruction. The people could have tried their homemade remedies to save themselves from the serpents' bites, but none of those remedies would have had any effect. There was only way to be healed, and it was through gazing upon the bronze snake lifted high on the pole. In a similar way, Jesus explained that He too would be lifted up. The only way for people to receive eternal life—healing from the sickness of sin and pardon from the penalty of death—would be to gaze upon Him in faith.

► **What did Jesus mean when He said He would be “lifted up”? Why is it important that He was “lifted up”?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Christianity without conversion is no longer Christian, because conversion means turning to God. —David Wells

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. As a family, discuss how you would you respond to someone who says they consult Jesus as a good moral guide, but does not recognize Him as the Son of God.
2. How does Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus provide a model for how our family engages with those who are religious but not committed to Christ?
3. How does God's gift of salvation impact our family?
4. Even though salvation is God's work, why do you think the Bible stresses our role in sharing the gospel with others? What are some ways our family can engage in sharing the gospel with others?

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Scripture

John 3:22-36

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Humility is finding joy in Christ's significance, not our own.

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

Body

- ▶ **What are some areas where you could decrease to make more of Jesus in your own life? Why will this increase your joy?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Pity the preacher whose message is all about Jesus but whose ministry is all about himself. —Trevin Wax

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's mission today resemble that of John the Baptist? What are some differences between John's role and ours?
2. What are some truths about Jesus that should be part of sharing the gospel? What do these truths communicate about Jesus? In what ways can our family share these truths with others?
3. What happens when we ignore God's judgment as a part of the gospel message? How can our family guard against neglecting this truth as we share the gospel?
4. What are some intentional ways our family can use our God-given talents and gifts this week to draw attention to the Giver, instead of to the gifts themselves?

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Scripture

John 4:1-42

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God seeks true worshipers who worship Him in spirit and truth.

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

It is interesting to note how Jesus took the conversation into a personal direction after having engaged this woman on friendly terms. The discussion about water prompted the truth about spiritual thirst that only God can quench. Then, the discussion about the woman's marital history led to a demonstration of Jesus' ability to know the hearts of people. "You are a prophet," the woman said, and she was right.

The way Jesus engaged in conversation revealed His heart. He did not just talk. He also listened. He did not condemn the woman for her past; He continued having a meaningful conversation.

- ▶ **When was the last time you broke "social protocol" to minister to someone? Why is it important that Christians be seen as breaking cultural barriers instead of creating them?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

The worshiping heart does not create its Object. It finds Him here when it wakes from its moral slumber in the morning of its regeneration. —A. W. Tozer

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 Jesus' model of breaking down cultural barriers in His search for the lost?
2. Jesus taught that worship isn't tied to a place, but is something first and foremost of the heart. How can our family make worship a part of our daily lives?
3. Why is it easy for us to lose our passion for sharing the good news of Jesus with the lost? How can our family guard against this?
4. What can our family learn from this account regarding what aspects of a personal testimony are compelling to people? How can that knowledge equip us to share with others? Take a few minutes to discuss your testimony with your family members.

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Scripture

Luke 4:14-30

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus' followers often experience rejection and opposition.

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

Now, we can find the hope we need to endure when we face rejection and persecution. No matter if it comes from a friend we've shared the gospel with, or even a family member who rejects us for our stance for Jesus. May we rally among other believers to encourage them and remind them of Jesus who endured opposition for our sake! May we reengage with those who have rejected us with the refreshing truths of the gospel of Jesus, who seeks to rescue them from captivity.

► **How difficult do you think it was for Jesus, who came to rescue His people, to experience rejection?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. —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 people try to discredit the uniqueness of Jesus today? How can our family work to, instead, recognize Jesus' uniqueness?
2. When has our family, or one of our family members, faced rejection because of our faith?
3. How does the truth of John 3:19 warn us when it comes to our family's hesitations in trusting Jesus as Savior?
4. How can our family maintain joy in times of suffering? Why is this important for the people around us?

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

Luke 19:1-10

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

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

Jesus took notice of this man, acknowledged him, and then expressed the desire to spend time in this traitor's home.

Not surprisingly, the people that saw this interaction were appalled. To be a guest in someone's home meant you were "in fellowship" with them. It was like having an outstretched arm of love and acceptance or giving a warm embrace. In the onlookers' eyes, Jesus spent time with one of the "bad guys"—someone who had done terrible and selfish things as part of his career. Why would a righteous teacher, someone who claimed to be the Messiah, want to spend time in fellowship with a man known for his wickedness?

- ▶ **Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, and describe the qualities of biblical repentance. In the brief encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, did Zacchaeus possess some of the qualities Paul listed in the passage you just read?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Zacchaeus is a household name for most Christians, thanks to the annoyingly catchy Sunday School jingle. Sadly, most of us don't know much about Zacchaeus except that he was a wee, little man—or, in the modern vernacular, "vertically challenged"—who knew how to climb trees. But Zacchaeus' story is an incredible picture of gospel-motivated generosity. In Zacchaeus, we see a stingy, fiscally corrupt man become one of the most generous people in the entire Bible. —JD Greear

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How do people sometimes get in the way of others seeing Jesus today? What steps can our family take to guard against getting in the way of others seeing Jesus?
2. What are some people or groups of people that our family is tempted to see as unreachable? How can we biblically challenge this way of thinking?
3. How does the gospel influence our family's level of generosity toward others?
4. When our family rightly understands God's grace to all sinners, what actions should follow?