

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

Acts 2:1-4,32-47

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to rely on the Holy Spirit as we share the gospel.

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 didn't take long after the Holy Spirit's arrival for Him to reveal His great passion and purpose. The sound of the rushing wind caught the attention of a great crowd of Jews in Jerusalem who were there for the festival of Pentecost. These Jews from every nation gathered together to investigate and heard the good news of Jesus—each in their own language, as the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in different languages. Filled with the Spirit, the Apostle Peter responded to the crowd's confusion as he stood before them and preached this sermon.

► When has love led you to speak out?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

If the love of God pervades our hearts, without a doubt it will soon engender affection for our neighbor as well. —Bede

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How should the reality of God's identity as the Trinity affect the way our family lives, worships, and prays?
2. What are some obstacles our family has faced in finding true community? What steps can we take to overcome these obstacles and encourage one another to embrace true community?
3. How can our family specifically be involved in building up our church community?
4. What can our family learn from the way Peter shared the gospel in this passage?

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Scripture

Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

When Christians are bold in their faith, the gospel will spread.

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

There's an important connection here between bold prayer and bold ministry. After a string of Spirit-filled ministry victories, even in the context of an unjust imprisonment, the church responded by seeking God in worshipful prayer. These Christians were extremely aware that all that had happened—the healing, the bold confrontation with the Jewish leaders, the favor of the crowds—was the work of God, and more specifically, the work of the Holy Spirit. In response, the church looked to God and asked Him to continue His work. They prayed for continued boldness, for healing, signs, and wonders to happen in the name of Jesus.

► **How do you think your life would change if you prayed with the same kind of boldness as the early church?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Once the heart of creation beats with the heart of the Creator of all the nations, it will be impossible to remain silent.
—Rodney M. Woo

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What kinds of risks does our family take in proclaiming Jesus as the only way to salvation?
2. What are some wrong or negative motivations our family may experience in sharing the gospel? How can we guard against those and instead share out of love and a desire for others to know Christ?
3. List some of the ways our family is pressured by the outside world when it comes to sharing or not sharing the gospel.
4. How can our family grow our prayer life? How can we pray with more boldness, like the early church?

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Scripture

Acts 4:32–5:11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to show our unity with other 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

It's important not to misunderstand what's happening here. This isn't a call to poverty or a demand for Christians to sell everything they have and give it to the poor. In fact, it isn't a demand at all; it's an invitation. These new Christians found themselves as part of this new family. If someone had a need, then they responded with radical generosity. Those who were wealthy and had more than they needed sold their resources to provide for others in their new family.

► **What are some ways our group and our church can show this kind of generosity today?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Believers are never told to *become* one—we're *already* one, and we're expected to act like it. —Joni Eareckson Tada

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What would it look like if our family lived as generously as the early church?
2. How does the joy of the gospel, and what Jesus gave for us, encourage our family to give generously to those who have needs?
3. Discuss what happened to Ananias and Sapphira. What surprises you about their actions? The Apostles' actions? God's response?
How do you think this might create some misunderstanding about God's character for those who don't know God?
4. What are some ways we can help others understand the truth of these misconceptions?

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Scripture

Acts 6:8-15; 7:44-60

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to make much of Jesus, even when we are persecuted.

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

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, received a reputation for performing signs and wonders while testifying to the Jews about who Jesus is. As a result, he attracted the attention of men who wanted to argue with him. They challenged him and hoped to stop his testimony, but because he was wise and filled with the Spirit of God, their efforts fell short.

- **When has someone lied about something you said or done in order to get you in trouble? How did the false witnesses do the same to Stephen?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

God is heaven-bent on inviting me to share in his joy, peace, and power. But there's a catch. God only shares his joy on his terms, and those terms call for us, in some measure, to suffer as his beloved Son did while on earth.

— Joni Eareckson Tada

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Name some people our family knows who have suffered or been persecuted because of their faith.
2. What can our family learn from the persecuted believers and martyrs who have gone before us?
3. How can our family keep motives and fears in check when needing to defend our faith?
4. What are some ways we can stand strong in our faith? What are some things we might have to defend against? How would we defend against those things?

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Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to be faithful and obedient witnesses.

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2. Thought From the Study

Philip was sent by God to be on mission for Him. Upon hearing the angel's command, Philip obeyed immediately. Just a few verses earlier, Philip was enjoying a thriving ministry in Samaria (8:4-8). One could imagine that a command like this—to undertake a lengthy journey, prompted only by the voice of God—might be met with some inner resistance. Any thriving work is difficult to leave and doing so takes a great deal of faith.

► **When has God asked you to leave something familiar for the unknown?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Continue seeking Him with seriousness. Unless He wanted you, you would not be wanting Him. —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 surprising ways God has led our family to be on mission?
2. As a family, discuss ways to share the gospel from anywhere in Scripture?
3. What are some reasons our family might feel intimidated by the thought of sharing the gospel?
4. How can our family overcome our fears of sharing the gospel?

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Scripture

Acts 10:1-16,34-48

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God shows no favoritism but offers salvation to people of every ethnicity.

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

That's one of the most surprising things about Cornelius' story. As pious as he was and as much as his heart seemed to be in the right place, he needed more than good motives to find God. He needed the church, the community of faithful saints who are filled with the Spirit and telling the world about Jesus.

► **When has a more mature believer helped you understand the Bible or know God better?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

My identity and my security are not in my spiritual progress. My identity and my security are in God's acceptance of me given as a gift in Christ. —J.D. Greear

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are some specific ways God has used our family to share the gospel?
2. How has God surprised us or surpassed our family's expectations?
3. Who has God reached that you were surprised by? What's the most surprising way someone in our family has been called to faith in Jesus?
4. In what ways has the story of Peter and Cornelius challenged our family?

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Scripture

Philippians 2:5-11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to adopt the posture of a humble servant we see in Christ.

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

For our sake, Jesus let go of more than we can ever imagine so we could enter into an eternal relationship with God the Father. As the apostle Paul wrote, Jesus demonstrated His grace to us by becoming poor so we might become rich in Him (2 Cor. 8:9). Christ temporarily gave up His exalted seat next to the Father so that we might enjoy God's exalted presence for eternity.

- ▶ **Jesus' whole life was drenched in humility. What can you learn about the way you should live your life from the way He lived His?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

The glory of God the Father is a fitting conclusion to this hymn, for this is what the heart was made to do: glorify God, not self. Humility involves following the pattern of Jesus for the glory of God. —Tony Merida and Francis Chan

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Who in our family is a good example of giving up privileges or rights for the sake of others?
2. What are some ways our family can work to demonstrate the same humility in our lives that Jesus showed in His?
3. List some connections our family sees between humility and obedience. How do these play into our relationships with God and each other?
4. Talk through all that happened because of Jesus' obedience. How must we be prepared to face similar things as we obey Him?

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Scripture

Acts 9:1-25

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Only Jesus can transform hearts and turn lives around for His glory.

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 God who delights in doing the unexpected didn't stop with Saul's conversion. God transformed Saul through the power of the gospel and graciously called him to be the greatest missionary in history. God's conversion and calling of Saul reveals His heart as the God who sends.

► **When have you been tempted to view someone as too far beyond the reach of God's redemptive power? Why?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Within each of us exists the image of God, however disfigured and corrupted by sin it may presently be. God is able to recover this image through grace as we are conformed to Christ. —Alister McGrath

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are the ways each of our family members first encountered Jesus?
2. When has God called our family to do something that didn't make sense or that we didn't want to do?
3. Where does our courage come from? How does this help our family to obey God no matter what?
4. As a family, discuss your gratitude for God's grace and mercy. How can we show our thankfulness for all that He has done?

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

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls His church to send and support missionaries to those who have never heard the gospel.

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

Some Jews came from where Paul and Barnabas had previously journeyed, with the sole purpose of causing them harm. They won over the crowd and turned them against Paul and Barnabas. They even stoned Paul and left him for dead.

Paul was stubbornly courageous though. After the disciples gathered around him, he got up and went right back into town. He was willing to lose everything, even his life, for the sake of the gospel. This is the call of the missionary—to trust God completely for every need, even in the midst of opposition and suffering.

► **Why do you think Paul returned to Lystra?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives...and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted. —Nate Saint

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Who are some missionaries our family knows? How can we pray for them this week?
2. What would be difficult for our family to surrender if God called us to live as foreign missionaries?
3. What are some things our family can sacrifice in order to support missionaries?
4. How does Paul's determination encourage us to persevere when sharing the gospel?

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Scripture

Acts 15:1-35

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to proclaim the message that salvation is available through faith in Christ alone, not through works.

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 Paul and Barnabas heard what the men were teaching, they confronted them and argued about this matter with them. The whole debate can be boiled down to the question of whether Jesus alone is sufficient for salvation, or if something else—such as circumcision in this case—was needed in addition.

► **What are some issues we need to defend, like Paul and Barnabas defended the Gentiles' salvation?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Many of us [in the church] are like porcupines trying to huddle together on a bitter cold night to keep each other warm, but we continually poke and hurt each other the closer we get. —Howard Hendricks

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. As a family, discuss the fact that salvation is by grace alone and we cannot work our way into it. Why is this so difficult to believe?
2. What are some things that might tempt our family to rely on our own experiences to validate what God is doing? Why is it dangerous to do so?
3. As a family, discuss how you would respond to someone who claimed being a good person plus faith in Jesus is what saves a person?
4. How does the Scripture about the Jerusalem Council teach our family to handle conflict within the church?

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

Acts 16:11-34

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God uses different ways to communicate His gospel message to different kinds 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.

2. Thought From the Study

Instead of being discouraged, Paul and the others most likely followed their normal rhythm when they arrived in this new city, seeking out a synagogue to attend on the Sabbath. They didn't find one. A city needed at least ten Jewish men to form a synagogue. Apparently, there were not even that many, so a group of women gathered outside of the city by the river to pray. Paul and the disciples found this group of women and sat down to talk with them.

► **When have you seen the gospel change someone so much that it also affected the people around that person?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

The Christian...does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.
—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 things our family sees enslaving other people today? Are there any things we're enslaved by? What would it look like for people to experience freedom from what enslaves them?
2. What types of people is our family tempted to look past? What are the names of some specific people who come to mind?
3. How can we work to not only notice, but also share the gospel with those people?
4. What can our family learn from the way Paul and Silas responded to their circumstances?

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

Acts 17:16-33

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The gospel must be presented in a way that easy for people in different cultures to understand.

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

Paul had experience in cities where people worshiped idols, but Athens was on another level. This is why we read that Paul was troubled by the sight of a city so deep in idolatry. Paul was not troubled the way you might be troubled when you realize you forgot to study for an exam. Paul was not fearful of the idols or the amount of them in the city. Paul was more grieved that there were so many idols in the city. This provoked him to stop waiting for Silas and the others to join him and to begin sharing the gospel in the synagogue and the marketplace.

► **What are some "idols" you see in our culture today?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

God wants to be found by you more than you want to find him. That's why we can promise that, if you seek him with an open heart and an open mind, you will find him. He'll make himself known to you. —Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. In what ways does Paul's boldness in sharing the gospel encourage our family as we share the gospel?
2. What does it mean for our family to be "in the world, not of it"?
3. How can our family make sharing the gospel a part of our daily lives?
4. As a family, discuss the next steps someone should take after trusting Jesus as Savior.

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

Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

All God's people are called to live on mission wherever He has placed them.

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

Instead of viewing Apollos as competition, Priscilla and Aquila saw him as a brother in the Lord and a coworker in the gospel. So, they helped him "win." After all, if he was able to powerfully and eloquently use the Scriptures to preach about Jesus Christ, even though he only knew about John's baptism, how much better would he be able to proclaim the gospel after he learned from more knowledgeable believers?

► **Why do you think it's our natural tendency to compete with others, even in ministry?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Every believer is called to full-time paid ministry—God just chooses to route our paychecks through different sources.
—Jeff Vanderstelt

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How do these passages help our family see our jobs, education, and roles in the community as our ministry?
2. In what ways can our family use our platforms to share the gospel with others?
3. Why is it important for our family to teach others what will be beneficial to their faith and lives?
4. How can our family leave behind a legacy of faithfulness everywhere we go?