

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

Galatians 2:11-21

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to stand our ground, refusing to compromise when the truth of the gospel is at stake.

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 early church was still grappling with the different ways Jewish and Gentile Christians lived out their faith and how a unified church could work through these differences (Acts 15). These differences—the more Jewish-focused Christianity coming out of Jerusalem and the newer, more Gentile-focused Christianity coming from the large number of Gentile believers in Antioch—created the environment for Peter's hypocrisy.

- ▶ **What are some ways churches today understand and practice Christianity differently? Which, if any, are reasons to divide?**
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3. Quote for Discussion

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

Self-image, the concept we have of ourselves, must begin not by looking in the mirror but by looking into the face of God. —Sam Storms

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What does this passage teach our family about refusing to compromise while not being hypocritical?
2. In what situations is it sometimes easy for our family to place our own traditions or opinions above the truth of the gospel?
3. How might our family be tempted to live in different ways around different types or groups of people?
4. How can our family learn from the way Paul confronted Peter with the truth?

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Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:10-31

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to strive for unity in the church in order to showcase the beauty of the cross.

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

Though we may have different preferences on how our church building should look, or opposing views on the details of our Sunday service, we are united in the fact that we can all point others to God as the faithful, loving Savior. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, instead of our supposed strengths and our tightly-held opinions, our hearts are naturally stirred for His name to be famed and we will joyfully and passionately proclaim His goodness to the nations.

- ▶ **When have you been tempted to brag about something in your life that God clearly did? How can you turn that around and share about what He has done in your life?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together.

—Corrie Ten Boom

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Who are some spiritual leaders in our family's life (whether in person, through books or conferences, or through social media)?
2. In what ways can it be tempting for our family to listen to the voices of those leaders above God's Word?
3. How can our family work to stay unified and encourage unity in our churches, small groups, and relationships with other believers?
4. Why is it important to realize that real change in our family's life comes from God, not from anything we do?

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

James 2:1-13

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to avoid showing favoritism and to extend mercy to all.

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

Favoritism is not just evil because it is self-serving; it is far more sinister than that. Favoritism undermines the gospel itself. James reminded the church that God chose the poor of the world to be rich in faith (Psa. 68:10; Matt. 5:3). Through our neediness—financial, spiritual, and otherwise—we turn to seek help from others. And in that helpless state, the gospel takes root in the heart and begins to grow, and we begin to experience God's extravagant grace in our lives.

► **How do your goals, desires, and choices reflect God's will for your life rather than the world's?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Greatness in the kingdom of God is measured in terms of obedience. —John Stott

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. When is our family tempted to judge others rather than extending mercy?
2. Why is it so important for our family to extend mercy to others no matter what?
3. In what ways is our family sometimes tempted to side with the world's view of things rather than God's view?
4. What are some ways others can see Christ in each of our family members individually, and in our interactions as a family and with others?

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Scripture

1 Peter 2:1-17

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The church's identity as God's people causes them to live differently than the world.

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2. Thought From the Study

Though we have been given right-standing with God through Jesus' sacrifice, we still have much work to do as we wait on the completion of God's work in us. We all have sin that clings closely to us, and Scripture continually commands us to take it down (Heb. 12:1). We have a race to run. A battle to fight. A lifetime of learning to live out the internal realities Christ provided us.

► **How can we better see the battle over sin as a moment-by-moment, urgent war rather than an occasional activity?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

It is easier to cry against one thousand sins of others than to kill one of your own. —John Flavel

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 can support each other as we fight to not become comfortable with our sin?
2. How can our family create a plan and hold each other accountable for staying in God's Word?
3. In what ways can our family remind each other that we are chosen by God? A royal priesthood? What effect does this have on each family member and our family as a whole?
4. How can our family remember that we are different, set apart, from the world without treating those in the world as if they are less?

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 John 3:10-18

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Love for God and love for others is the fruit of true Christianity.

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2. Thought From the Study

None of us will love others perfectly, but the fact that we don't love perfectly should still rattle us. Christ-followers' main desire is to honor God with every moment, and the natural fruit of His disciples will be a deep and abiding love for others. As recipients of the merciful and powerful love of Christ, let's walk forward—marked by love—in grateful worship, allowing the love of God to spill over to those we encounter.

► **What are some practical ways you can show love to the people around you?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.

—C. S. Lewis

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How can our family encourage each other as we grow in love for Jesus and others?
2. What are two ways our family can show love to our neighbors, friends, or other church members this week?
3. Who are some family friends who don't know Jesus or are even hostile to the gospel? How can we pray for them this week?
4. In what ways is it sometimes tempting for our family to be like the Scribes and Pharisees?

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 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Titus 2:11-14

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God uses pastors to lead His church in obedience to His 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

Paul wanted Timothy to be known for wise words rather than harsh rants. Today, this could include refusing to post outrage on social media, choosing instead to speak words of grace and compassion, and so on. Paul also encouraged Timothy to set an example inwardly through building traits of love, faith (or faithfulness), and purity (both sexual and general integrity).

► **What are some ways you personally could choose to follow the advice Paul gave to Timothy in these verses?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

When Ezra preached to the people in Nehemiah 8, the attitude with which the listeners came to hear him was crucial. We need to follow their example by committing ourselves to attend expectantly, listen carefully, and apply the Scriptures properly. Then we can leave the service with joyful hearts. —Alistair Begg

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How can our family encourage even the youngest members to live for Jesus?
2. Who are our family's pastors or church leaders? How can we pray for them this week?
3. What are three kind things we can do for our pastors or church leaders this week?
4. How can our family, like our pastors and leaders, point people to Jesus?

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 Corinthians 15:1-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection of Jesus.

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2. Thought From the Study

The gospel is not just what begins new life and a relationship with Christ, it also shapes daily life in Christ. The church in Corinth was clearly not living out the gospel—they were experiencing divisions in the church, sexual immorality, bragging of all kinds (especially about spiritual gifts, knowledge, eloquent speech, and status), greed, and idolatry. In other words, they were building their lives, hope, and status on things other than the gospel of Jesus Christ.

► What are some things you're sometimes tempted to build your life around, other than Jesus?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

People who believe in the resurrection, in God making a whole new world in which everything will be set right at last, are unstoppably motivated to work for that new world in the present. —N. T. Wright

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. When can it be tempting for our family to place our status, worth, or identity in something other than Jesus?
2. Why is it sometimes easy for our family to forget the importance of the resurrection, especially when life gets busy?
3. How does the truth of physical, bodily resurrection affect our family?
4. What does our family look forward to most about restoration (Jesus' process of making all things new)?

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Scripture

Romans 8:12-39

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God delivers us from slavery to sin and death and gives us life through the Spirit.

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2. Thought From the Study

If we are in Christ, we are no longer slaves to the flesh. We have been freed by Christ, and the Spirit enables us to put to death any lingering works of the flesh. Christians can still sin, but the gospel changes us so that we don't have to. The chains of the flesh have been broken.

- ▶ **What does it mean not to live according to the flesh? Does that mean Christians should expect never to sin? Why or why not?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Most of the time, we scratched our heads and wondered how the matted mesh of threads in Romans 8:28 could possibly be woven together for our good. On earth, the underside of the tapestry was tangled and unclear; but in heaven, we will stand amazed to see the topside of the tapestry and how God beautifully embroidered each circumstance into a pattern for our good and His glory. —Joni Eareckson Tada

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How can our family live out our new identities as adopted sons and daughters of God?
2. Allow time for each family member to adequately respond to the following question. How does it affect you knowing that you don't have to work to earn your place in God's family, but you work freely and joyfully from your place in God's family?
3. What are some frustrations and pains our family experiences as a result of a broken world? Which are you most excited about no longer experiencing when Jesus makes all things new?
4. How does God's plan for the world determine how our family treats the world now? What are some practical ways we can take better care of the creation 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

Romans 12:9-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God changes us by bringing us into fellowship with Him and with 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

Through the power of the gospel, we are never truly alone, even when no one else is around. Our God is always with us; His Spirit has taken up residence in us, and we are "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). This is what it means that God called us into fellowship with Jesus. We are personally connected now in an eternal, unbreakable relationship with Him.

- ▶ **Describe a time when you felt you had true community or fellowship. How does fellowship with Christ differ from that? How is it similar?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

The Christian community is a community of the cross, for it has been brought into being by the cross, and the focus of its worship is the Lamb once slain, now glorified. —John Stott

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are some ways that each member of our family struggles with feeling accepted? How does knowing we are each accepted by Jesus change that?
2. How does it affect us to know we are unconditionally loved and accepted by God, especially in difficult times?
3. Of the commands Paul listed in Romans 12:9-18, which do each of our family members struggle with most? Spend some time praying for each other, specifically for these struggles.
4. How can our family work together and work with other believers to share the gospel?

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Scripture

Galatians 5:16-26

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Change in behavior comes from a heart transformed by the Spirit.

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

If we are to walk by the Spirit, we need to spend time being quiet, praying, and listening to Him. We also need to remember that the primary way for determining His will is by reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word.

- ▶ **Why do you think it's so important to be still, pray, and read God's Word in order to understand where the Holy Spirit is leading you?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Because it is the Spirit of God who awakens love in our hearts, it is not something we can claim as our own. Being able to love others is not the result of discipline; it is a miracle. —Scot McKnight

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. As a family discuss what it means to walk by the Spirit. Then, ask, "Where is the Spirit currently leading our family?" Spend some time praying that you will clearly understand His leading.
2. What changes do we see in each of our family members as we spend time in prayer and God's Word?
3. Christians will still struggle with sin on this side of eternity. What are some sins our family struggles with? How can we support each other specifically in those struggles?
4. Which fruit of the spirit comes easiest for our family? Which one is the most difficult?

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

Ephesians 6:10-20

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

We are called to put on the full armor of God as we stand against the enemy.

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 gave us the blueprint for complete protection against an unholy attack. We cover ourselves head to foot with God's armor for protection in the midst of the fierce battles we will face. Remember, this is God's armor, not ours. You will notice that every piece of armor listed corresponds to something God does. None of it corresponds to anything we could do in our own strength or intelligence.

► Why do you think the shield that protects us from the devil is our faith and not our works?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Resolved, never to give over, nor in the least to slacken my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.
—Jonathan Edwards

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What piece of God's armor stands out to each member of our family? Why?
2. List some Bible verses that our family can memorize for the times the devil tempts us.
3. When can our family sometimes be tempted to believe prayer is magic, that we ask to get what we want?
4. How can praying for each other draw our family closer to God and each other?

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

2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God gives to us so we can share with others in need.

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

Generosity essentially means being filled up with the gospel and finding so much satisfaction in it that we see giving to others as a privilege. Generosity is not measured by the amount we give, but by the joyfulness and heart behind what we give. That is what Paul wanted the Corinthians to experience, and what we should want to experience as well.

- ▶ **Since generosity demonstrates the genuineness of our love, what does your generosity say about your love for others? About the state of your heart?**
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3. Quote for Discussion

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

When the gospel touches people's pockets, one knows that the Spirit is at work in their lives . —J. I. Packer

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 can practice generosity together? How can we increase our generosity?
2. When is our family tempted to want more than we have?
3. When has someone shown extreme generosity to our family? When has our family shown extreme generosity to someone else?
4. Why can it sometimes be difficult to share the good gifts God has given 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

Hebrews 11–12:2

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Jesus is the source and perfecter of our faith.

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

Our faith is not only in who Christ is and what He has done, but also in what He has promised He will do. Our salvation is already and not yet. We are saved from the judgment of sin, but we eagerly await the fullness of our salvation when we will finally be rid of sin and when Christ redeems creation. Just like the patriarchs' faith, our faith looks forward with hope in what is still not seen.

► **How does it affect you to know that even if you wanted to, you couldn't buy righteousness through your own works?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world—namely, that a righteousness that resides with a Person in heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth. —John Bunyan

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How would our family define faith?
2. When does our family struggle to believe we can't buy or earn our righteousness? How does it make us feel to know Jesus has already purchased it for us?
3. Why is it sometimes tempting for our family to believe that faith in God will always lead to something good for us?
4. What are some practical ways our family can keep our eyes on Jesus and grow in our faith?