

*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 26:6-16

## **1. Opening Statement**

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

### **Our heart's condition is revealed either by our giving or our greed.**

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**

Mary's original intentions were not entirely clear. In this act of devotion, was she expressing her belief that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God? Or was she one of the first in the Gospels to truly understand that the messianic mission marched through a tomb? Whether Mary was initially and intentionally aware of the significance of her action or not, Jesus clearly saw the act as stretching beyond the present into the future. In this simple glorious act, she prepared Jesus for burial.

► **The perfume Mary used was expensive. What does this tell you about Mary's sacrifice and her love for Jesus?**

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## **3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**Still he seeks the fellowship of his people, and sends them both sorrows and joys in order to detach their love from other things and attach it to himself. —J.I. Packer**

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## **4. Conversation Questions**

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

1. What's the importance of generosity in our family?
2. What are some practical ways we can live generously this week?
3. List some values our family should reevaluate or implement to live more generously?
4. As a family, discuss some ways we can practice generosity as an overflow of devotion and worship.

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**Scripture**

Matthew 21:1-17

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Jesus is the Savior who came to restore true worship.**

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

According to Jesus, the Father is seeking true worship (John 4:23-24), and Jesus seeks those who seek His Father's face. However, when Jesus entered the temple, He saw inauthentic worship. Rather than a place of gathering for the nations to pray, the temple was a demonstration of commerce with shimmering coins and cooing doves. Far from shining the glory of God, the temple glimmered with the glory of man.

- ▶ **Does Jesus' reaction surprise you? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **How would you have responded if you were with Jesus or in the temple when this occurred?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Only the redeeming, all-powerful, transforming grace of God can raise our sin-besotted heart from the dead, give us eternal life, and set our gaze on Jesus, our blessed hope. — Gloria Furman**

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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 the way Jesus cleansed the temple? How should this affect the way we worship?
2. As a family, discuss the difference between being angry and having a holy anger.
3. When has our family been driven out of a desire to praise and worship God?
4. How can our family give God the glory and honor due to Him, our King?

*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 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

**1. Opening Statement**

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

**The Lord's Supper points to Jesus' sacrifice for sins.**

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**

Jesus' entire life was marked by service. He served the crowds and His disciples constantly, escaping only for a few short breaks to rest in prayer and contemplation. One might think this last meal would surely be the moment of His big reveal. Like the undercover boss, maybe we imagine that—having taken the form of a servant until the end of the episode—the King removes His blue-collar uniform and sits enthroned in royal robes to the amazement of His followers. That is what we might expect. Instead, the King removes His robe and kneels in yet another act of service to the amazement of His followers.

► **Is your life marked more by serving or being served?**

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**3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**The Last Supper is meant to picture not only the fulfillment of past promises of God and the present impending death of Jesus, but just as much the assured future of an even greater meal in the coming kingdom of God. — Jonathan T. Pennington**

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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 that help our family see our need for Jesus and for God's kingdom?
2. As a family, what are some things we've excitedly anticipated? What does this teach us about the way we should long for Jesus?
3. How can our family prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper?
4. What are some practical ways our family can serve those around us—in our schools, churches, communities, jobs, and so on?

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**Scripture**

Matthew 26:36-49,56,59-66

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Jesus was sent by the Father to face judgment for our sins.**

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 this moment of crisis, there would be no retreat, no revolt, no rescue. Jesus was resolute in accepting what Scripture had foretold. Everything that occurred on that night was foretold, but this was no comfort for the disciples in the dark. Jesus had steadied Himself in His Father's provision and plan, but the disciples were shaken and afraid. The Old Testament message illuminated the events of this night, but the disciples failed to see it. The narrative would not end without even more fulfillment to come, but the sheep were scattered and the Shepherd was led willingly across the dark valley into the city of Jerusalem.

► **What does this passage tell you about Jesus' commitment to follow through with His Father's 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 Gethsemane the holiest of all petitioners prayed three times that a certain cup might pass from Him. It did not."—C. S. Lewis**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Believers are promised that we will face persecution. What are some ways our family can follow Jesus' example of restraint when we're persecuted for our faith?
2. Think about some of the ways the world accuses the church. Which of these accusations should our family reject? Which should we reject?
3. How can the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies help our family address those who are skeptical about God and the gospel?
4. What is our family's tendency when it comes to discussing God's wrath? What are some ways we can address the truth of God's wrath?

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**Scripture**

Matthew 27:11-51

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Jesus is the King who willingly took upon Himself the punishment for sin.**

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 the torn curtain, a message was proclaimed. A Son was rejected so that the Father would have many more sons and daughters. The Father forsook His only Son that He might extend forgiveness to a great many children. A Son's sacrifice was accepted in the holy of holies, so that all who trust in Him might be accepted before the very throne of God.

► **How does it affect you to know Jesus was forsaken and rejected so that you could have forgiveness for your sins?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**He lost his own life in order to gain life for all; he preferred to be conquered in himself in order to be the victor in everyone. —Maximus of Turin**

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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 or people our family is tempted to choose over Jesus?
2. Ask each family member what was the most moving thing about Passion Week and Jesus' crucifixion.
3. Discuss some ways God showed His love for us in Jesus' death on the cross. How should this change each family member's relationship with Christ?
4. How can our family address the issue of sin when sharing the gospel with others? Practice sharing your testimony with your family.

*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 28:1-15

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Sin's curse was removed and death was defeated in Jesus' 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The message entrusted to these women was threefold. First, the angel told them to repeat what they had already been told: Jesus had been raised from the dead. That would be incredible enough, but the message of their mission continued. The angel also instructed them to proclaim that Jesus was going to Galilee, the region of the majority of His ministry. Finally, the angel tasked them with telling the disciples that they would see Him there.

► **Imagine you were with the women visiting the tomb. How would you respond to what you saw?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Jesus is very much alive and well in the twenty-first century. Jesus is revealed in the lives and words and resurrection faith of the believers in persecution. These believers don't just live *for* Jesus, they live *with* Jesus every day. —Nik Ripken**

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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 fears our family experiences? How does the news of Jesus' resurrection help us fight fear?
2. Allow each person in your family to describe the time that they first believed in the truth of Jesus' resurrection.
3. How can our family encourage others who fear death through the truth of the resurrection?
4. How can our family pursue God's mission of sharing the gospel with others?

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### **Scripture**

Luke 24:13-35

## **1. Opening Statement**

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

### **Jesus is the central focus of Scripture and our worship.**

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## **2. Thought From the Study**

Jesus expressed disappointment that the two disciples failed to understand what the Scriptures said. The combination of "foolish" and "slow" suggests they were slow to accept by faith what the Scriptures taught about the Messiah.

The reference to Moses and other prophets referred to the Hebrew Bible—what Christians today refer to as the Old Testament. In Jesus' day, the Old Testament was read as a story in search of a conclusion. The Jewish people in Jesus' day were waiting for the last chapter in their story to begin. Essentially, Jesus said to Cleopas and the other disciple, "I am the one who brings the story to its completion. I am the focus of all the Scriptures."

► **What do you think the men meant when they said that their hearts were burning while they walked with Jesus?**

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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 church...the story of creation must be read in a way that begins with Christ and only then moves on toward him as its goal; indeed one can read it as a book that moves on toward Christ only when one knows that Christ is the beginning, the new, the end of our whole world. — Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

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## **4. Conversation Questions**

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

1. When has our family experienced a time of sorrow and confusion? How does it affect our family to know that He is still with us?
2. How has God used His Word and other believers to remind our family of His presence during difficult times?
3. What are some ways our family can encourage each other to spend time daily in God's Word?
4. How can our family make evangelism a normal part of our everyday lives?

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**Scripture**

John 20:19-23

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Just as God the Father sent Jesus into the world, Jesus also sends us to be on mission.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Jesus' words here echo His prayer the night before His death. Jesus prayed a number of things for His disciples, but He also declared that He would send them just as He had been sent (John 17:18). Jesus invites us to participate in the same mission in which He participated. His Father sent Him, and He asks us to go on mission with Him, sending us with His peace, commanding us to love others and speak the truth with grace.

► **How does Jesus' victory over sin and death and His promise of peace encourage you as you live on mission?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**If you want to follow Jesus Christ, you must follow him to the ends of the earth, for that is where he is going. ... We cannot think of God without thinking of him as a missionary God. —Robert Speer**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How can our family live with our mission in view—that we are Christ's ambassadors, sharing His message and peace?
2. What are some practical steps our family can take this week to live on mission in our own schools, jobs, communities, and so on?
3. What are some adjustments our family may need to make in order to live more focused on God's mission?
4. Who are three people our family can share the gospel with this week? How can we hold each other accountable to do this?



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**Scripture**

John 20:24-29

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Faith is the assurance of our hope and the proof of what we cannot see.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The core part of the challenge Jesus issued to Thomas was this: "Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer." Thomas had been a loyal disciple of Jesus up to that point, but he needed to exercise faith in the crucified and risen King. Throughout the Gospel of John, we see that faith (belief) in Jesus is necessary for receiving God's salvation and gift of eternal life.

► **Why do you think Jesus singled out Thomas when He appeared to His disciples this second time?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Faith is a reasoning trust, a trust which reckons thoughtfully and confidently upon the trustworthiness of God. — John Stott**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What kind of doubts does our family struggle with the most—intellectual, emotional, or volitional? How can we help each other deal with these doubts?
2. How would our family define faith and explain it to people who don't believe?
3. What are some analogies and illustrations our family uses to describe faith? How can we use these to encourage each other and share the gospel?
4. How can we, as a family, address our own doubts in healthy ways? How do we respond to one another's doubts in healthy ways?

*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**

John 21:1-13

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Jesus forgives past failures and offers the opportunity to follow Him once again.**

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

Jesus' commission to Peter, His repentant follower, was to care for Jesus' followers as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This was a huge commission. Jesus, the Good Shepherd who cares for the sheep (John 10:10-16), entrusted this responsibility to Peter. In essence, Peter would demonstrate his love for Jesus by caring for Jesus' followers.

- **How have you experienced the reassuring presence of Jesus in your life? What has Jesus done to remind you that He is with you and cares for your needs?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**We may ask why Peter, who was a fisherman before his conversion, returned to fishing when it is said, "No one putting his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." —Gregory the Great**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. When has our family experienced a time of need? How did God provide for us during that time?
2. How can our family "feed the sheep" around us?
3. What are some "costs" our family has faced in the past as followers of Jesus? What are some "costs" we may face in the future?
4. What are some of the different gifts, abilities, and callings within our family? How can we encourage each other rather than competing?

*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 28:16-20

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Jesus calls all of His followers to go and make disciples.**

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

Jesus wasn't shaken by their unbelief, and He wasn't discouraged. He was focused on the mission He would pass on to His disciples. But before He shared His commission with His disciples, He established the strength behind it—Himself. Jesus received complete authority and power from God the Father.

► **What are some other places in Scripture where we see Jesus possessing divine authority?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Every Christian...is either a missionary or an impostor. —Charles Spurgeon**

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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 fears that tempt our family not to obey the mission Jesus has given to us?
2. How does Jesus' authority over all of heaven and earth encourage our family to obey His mission, despite our fears?
3. What are some practical ways our family can live out Jesus' commands this week?
4. How can our family encourage each other, and other believers around us, to share the gospel message with those who don't know 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**

Acts 1:4-14

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**God's mission can't take place apart from the help of the Holy 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.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a foretelling of the events that occurred at Pentecost, which took place in Acts 2. At that time, the believers would be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive power to boldly proclaim the gospel. They would be given the supernatural gift to speak in various languages for the benefit of many Jews who had come for the festival from their various nations with various languages (Acts 2:1-11). This was the promised power and gift awaiting them—the Holy Spirit, the fuel for obeying the Great Commission.

- ▶ **What is the most difficult part about waiting on God?**
- ▶ **What was so amazing about God's promise to the disciples in this passage? How does this promise affect you today?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you. —Corrie ten Boom**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. How does our family handle the parts of God's plan that we don't understand?
2. What are some areas in our family's life where it's difficult to trust God's promises?
3. As a family, discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in your lives. How does His role in our lives and the fact that He empowers us encourage our family?
4. How can we encourage each other to recognize the role of the Holy Spirit and His importance in our lives and God's mission?

*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**

Isaiah 12:1-6

## **1. Opening Statement**

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

### **Christians thank the Lord, sing His praises, and proclaim His greatness in all the earth.**

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 individual gave thanks to God for His salvation in verse 1, but here the saved individuals who have gathered together also encouraged one another to give thanks to God and publicly honor His name. The picture of praise in this chapter flows like this: I thank the Lord that He has saved me! Hey, you are here with me, so you have been saved too. Thank the Lord that He saved you! But the praise of God can't stop there. This salvation from God is so great, gracious, and kind that everyone needs to hear about it, so let's go tell more people—even those who haven't heard about our God and His salvation!

- ▶ **How does thanking and praising God with other believers encourage us to go to those who do not know God and His salvation?**
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## **3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**The Lord will never forsake His people. No matter how difficult the days may be, or how long the nights, for the people of God, the best is yet to come. —Warren W. Wiersbe**

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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 metaphors, or word pictures, our family can use to describe God's salvation to others?
2. How can our family make our faith community a priority in our lives?
3. What are some ways God has worked in our family's life? How can we use those situations to make God known in the world?
4. List some reasons our family has to praise God. How can we praise and give thanks to God for each of these things?