

*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 Kings 18:17-39

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Pursuing false gods leads to enslavement, but submission to the one true God leads to freedom.**

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

Today's society has become so skeptical that we think intelligent people constantly question everything. Our society's intellectual wavering has led us into accepting a pluralistic view of religious beliefs, which is the belief that says, "All religions are equally true." Elijah dealt with a similar problem when the Israelites wavered in their loyalty and faith in Yahweh as the true God.

- ▶ **What were the two opinions Elijah referenced? In what ways do you sometimes waver between serving God and serving "other gods"?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**False gods push us to mutilate ourselves because we desperately want to win their approval. But only one God was ever mutilated for us—Jesus Christ. —JD Greear**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

1. **Elijah stood on the side of truth in the midst of widespread opposition to him and his belief in God. What are some ways our family can do the same when we face opposition today?**
2. **Why is it important for our family not to overlook the fact that God's display of power was not only for His glory, but so that the people might also turn from their false gods to the one true God?**
3. **What are some "altars" our family has established that have caused us to neglect our relationship to God?**
4. **As a family, discuss "false gods" in our day that consume our time and effort (in reference to both Christians and non-Christians)?**

*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 Kings 19:1-18

## **1. Opening Statement**

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

### **Even in our moments of fear and disbelief, God is with us.**

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

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

It is difficult to believe that after the events of Mount Carmel, Elijah would respond to the threat against him by running away in fear. But this is what we see. Like we often do, Elijah forgot the truth of God's power and responded to threatening circumstances by creating distance between himself and the threat.

► **In what ways are you tempted to forget about God's power and allow your circumstances to overwhelm you?**

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## **3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**The gospel declares to us that God has made Himself close to us in Christ...When our feelings tell us that is not true, we must defy those feelings with faith in God's promise. —JD Greear and Trevin Wax**

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## **4. Conversation Questions**

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

- 1. What does God's response of ministering to Elijah during this season of doubt and despair teach our family about the character of God?**
- 2. What are some ways our family can help those around us to see the bigger picture when blinded by emotional pain?**
- 3. What does this teach our family about the importance of surrounding ourselves with other believers as we seek to live out the Christian life?**
- 4. How can our family encourage one another by pointing to God's work in these smaller 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**

2 Kings 5:1-19

## **1. Opening Statement**

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

### **God's cure for spiritual sickness involves humility and repentance.**

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**

Realizing the magnitude of what took place in his body, Naaman's eyes were opened to the reality that grace is found in the God of Israel alone. No false god could have brought about immediate, comprehensive healing such as this. The general humbled himself and confessed the core Jewish belief that there is only one true God who deserves worship and praise.

- ▶ **Compare Naaman's words in the previous passage with his words in this passage. What difference do you see in his attitude? What are the signs that he has been radically changed?**

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## **3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**All Naaman needed was nothing. It was the one thing Naaman didn't have. —Sally Lloyd Jones**

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## **4. Conversation Questions**

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

- 1. As a family, what external factors do we often look to when evaluating whether a person is "successful" or not? How might these external factors distract our family from the seriousness of our spiritual disease?**
- 2. What are practical ways our family can give glory back to God?**
- 3. What does a hypocritical life look like? How can we, as a family, avoid living life hypocritically?**
- 4. What does the maiden's advice to Naaman teach us about how God might want to use our family to direct others toward 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**

Isaiah 6:1-8

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**The reality of sin can only be rightly understood when compared to God's personal holiness.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Isaiah was filled with both awe and terror. In recognizing the purity and goodness of God, he came to see his own lack of goodness—his uncleanness and sin. Even more importantly, he recognized that he was ruined in light of God's holiness.

- ▶ **Take a few minutes to jot down the different words and phrases that describe Isaiah's vision of God. What do these words communicate?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**God is sovereign, so live confidently. God is holy, so live reverently. —Adrian Rogers**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. Like Isaiah, what has our family witnessed that reflects the power, majesty, and beauty of God? How did those instances affect us?**
- 2. Why do you suppose we, as a culture, often lack awe and wonder? What are some ways our family can enhance our vision of God's glory and holiness?**
- 3. Take a few minutes for each family member to share about the ways their own encounter and relationship with God has changed them.**
- 4. How can our family help each other be more mindful about pursuing a heart like God's in the weeks ahead?**

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### Scripture

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

## 1. Opening Statement

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

### Salvation comes through the suffering of God's chosen servant.

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## 2. Thought From the Study

Seeking to highlight the Servant's substitution for all people, Isaiah repeatedly used the words "we," "us," and "our" to communicate that we are the beneficiaries of His work and also guilty for these crimes.

As predicted in his introductory stanza, Isaiah concludes his song by describing the Servant's work on our behalf with the exaltation and victory it brings.

- ▶ **Have you ever thought of yourself as a reward to Christ for His work on the cross? How does this change your desire to live for Him?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Christ has made an atonement so complete that he never need suffer again. No more drops of blood; no more pangs of heart; no more bitterness and darkness, with exceeding heaviness, even unto death, are needed." —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. In what ways has our family gone astray like sheep in our own lives? How can we work together to guard against this?
2. After having gone through this session, how could our family answer someone who asks us why we need a substitute for our sins?
3. How should the knowledge that God demonstrated His love in the substitution of His Son impact our family's daily decisions?
4. What are some things our family needs to "die" to and submit to God in our lives in response to the Servant's dying on our behalf?

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 Kings 19:8-20,32-37

## 1. Opening Statement

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

### **God saves us for the glory of His name and for our good.**

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## 2. Thought From the Study

When Assyria came against Hezekiah and Israel's southern kingdom, the primary target was "your God, whom you trust" (19:10). When the Assyrians listed the other nations and the gods that were unable to save them, they became instruments of Satan used to mock the name of Yahweh by lumping Him into the same category. Through these mouthpieces, Satan mocked the notion that God was able to deliver His people (see 18:22-24). He even suggested that the pagan gods of surrounding countries approved and commissioned the attack due to Hezekiah's efforts to reestablish the worship of Yahweh as the only true God.

- ▶ **Why do you think the Assyrians focused on Israel's trust in God, making Him seem deceptive?**
- ▶ **What stands out to you about their taunting? Have you ever experienced something similar—being taunted or ridiculed because you trust God? What happened?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**When we pray, we are speaking to the One Whose eternal purpose and designs are unfolding as our present realities. In order to find hope in them, we must seek Him and His perspective. —James MacDonald**

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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 ways Satan is wreaking havoc in the world today? What does it say about us if we, as children of God, are content and at peace in the world? Where does our family fall? Are we content with the world the way it is?**
2. **What do these verses teach us about prayer? How can we apply them to our family life?**
3. **What are some ways our family can reflect God's glory in the way that we live?**
4. **How can we seek to make God's name known in our neighborhood, church, or community this week? How can we do this together as a 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

Hosea 1:2-9; 2:14-23; 3:1-5

## 1. Opening Statement

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

### **God faithfully pursues His people even when they are unfaithful.**

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

God, in His love, not only pursued us in the midst of our unfaithfulness as Hosea did with Gomer; God promises His love to us forever. Threaded inseparably into the narrative of Hosea's marriage is God's promise of love for His own people. Just as Hosea was called to continue to pursue and love his wife, so God had committed Himself to His people.

- ▶ **Take a minute to list the promises God made in this passage. What promises stand out to you? Why is it important to know that God will not withdraw His love from His people?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**This is the gospel story in the Old Testament. This is the meaning of Christmas interpreted seven centuries before Christ. God comes to woo us tenderly to himself; he promises us fullest hope and safety; he starts over with any who will come, and offers us the most intimate and pleasure-filled relationship possible. —John Piper**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What does the story of Hosea and Gomer teach us about God's character, especially as it relates to our own unfaithfulness to Him? List some steps our family can take to remain faithful to the Lord.**
- 2. What are some ways our family can cultivate uncompromising devotion to God in our home? How can we hold each other accountable to be fully devoted to God individually, as well?**
- 3. How does understanding the love of Hosea for Gomer help our family grow in gratitude for the way God has treated us? Take a few minutes to discuss the ways your family has to be grateful to God for His faithfulness in your lives.**
- 4. Discuss your family's understanding of the word *love*. How is this different than the picture of God's love we see in Scripture? What can we do to make sure our family's concept of the word *love* lines up with God's?**

*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**

Jonah 1:1-5,15-17; 2:7-3:5; 4:1-4

**1. Opening Statement**

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

**God's saving grace extends to those whom we may consider as enemies.**

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**

Ironically, Jonah found himself in the exact same position as the Ninevites. He was disobedient, living in the middle of God's discipline, and he needed to repent and ask for forgiveness. He had to, in a sense, preach the message to himself that God had given him for the Ninevites. And when he applied the message to himself, he was thankful for the same character of God that had driven him to such rage days earlier.

- ▶ **Do you think it was difficult for Jonah to find himself in need of the same repentance God sought from the Ninevites? Why or why not?**

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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 do not cut the lines that tie you to the dock, God will have to use a storm to sever them and send you out to sea. Put everything in your life afloat upon God, going out to sea on the great swelling tide of His purpose... –Oswald Chambers**

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**4. Conversation Questions**

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

- 1. In our family, how do we often think of discipline? Are our thoughts mostly negative? Discuss a time when God has used discipline in your family to bring you back to Him or strengthen your faith.**
- 2. As a family, think through a time when God called you to do something and you felt uneasy about it. Why do you think you responded this way?**
- 3. What can our family learn from God's response to the Ninevites? To Jonah?**
- 4. Who are some people our family knows who need to hear the Word of God? How can we prioritize sharing the gospel with them?**



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**Scripture**

Joel 1:1-14; 2:12-14,18,25-32

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**Repentance requires grieving over our sin and turning away from our sin and toward God for forgiveness.**

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

Joel gave his people a strong dose of reality. The locust swarm was meant as a wake-up call for people to recognize their sin and return to the Lord. The beginning of a return to God involves proper grief over sin.

- ▶ **Does it surprise you that God sent the locusts as a warning to His own people? Where else in the Bible did He use locusts to send a message?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Our sorrow and grief for sin must not spring merely from a fear of wrath; for if we have no other ground than that, it proceeds from self-love and not from any love to God. –George Whitefield**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. Discuss what you think it means to grieve over sin. What is the difference between grieving over the effects of sin and grieving over sin itself? Why are these important concepts for our family to understand?**
- 2. When it comes to repentance, why is it important for our family to realize both attitude and action go together?**
- 3. Why do we need to embrace the work and role of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives? How can our family encourage each other to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's work in our life?**
- 4. Does our family ever struggle to talk about God's judgment? What are some practical and appropriate ways our family can present the reality of God's judgment to those 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

Jeremiah 1:4-10

## 1. Opening Statement

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

### God equips those He has chosen to minister in His name.

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

Long before Jeremiah could walk, talk, or fully and completely formulate his thoughts, God set him apart as a prophet to the nations. Before giving Jeremiah this task, God reminded him that his days were planned from the beginning. God constructed Jeremiah for a purpose, and sent him on a mission planned well before Jeremiah's time.

- ▶ **God actively formed you and called you to a specific purpose to fulfill His plan for the world. What does this reveal to you about God's character? Your purpose in life?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**There is no doubt that all God's resources are at the disposal of the one whom God has called. God Himself is your resource. —Henry & Richard Blackaby**

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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 it affect us to know God has a plan for our family? In what ways does this change the way we will treat each other and those around us? How does this change our family's view of God?**
- 2. Why is it important for our family to fix our focus on God instead of ourselves as we attempt to live on mission for Him? What happens if our focus is misplaced?**
- 3. What kinds of obstacles does our family face in being messengers of the gospel? How does God's abiding presence answer those hesitations?**
- 4. How does the way our family looks at one another and others change when we recognize God has truly formed 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**

Jeremiah 17:1-10; 31:31-34

**1. Opening Statement**

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

**God promises to write His law on our hearts and send the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.**

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

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**2. Thought From the Study**

Jeremiah's message from the Lord might not have met the people's expectations in terms of the physical, but it cuts straight to the heart of the matter. Because our problem is far worse than we dare to imagine, the message is better than we could have dreamed.

- ▶ **What characterizes the new covenant God made with us through Jesus Christ? Why is this so important?**

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**3. Quote for Discussion**

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

**Jesus does not just offer to make bad people good, but dead people alive. –Ravi Zacharias**

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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 knowing believers have a new heart change the way our family approaches obedience to God?**
- 2. Why is it important for our family to understand we don't only commit sins, but are sinful in nature? How does this knowledge impact the way our family understands the effects of the gospel?**
- 3. How has this session encouraged and challenged our family when it comes to our relationship to God?**
- 4. How has this session encouraged and challenged our family when it comes to reflecting God to those 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**

2 Chronicles 36:11-21; Jeremiah 38:14-18,24-28

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**God patiently pursues sinners, but those who harden their hearts will one day face judgment.**

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 final downfall of Israel had been set in motion through the hardened heart of their ruler, which was a reflection of the hardened hearts of the people. This text tells us the true source of Zedekiah's actions: He was not acting out of a sense of national pride or noble desire for independence. Instead, he was living out the natural way of his hardened heart.

- ▶ **Have you ever witnessed someone who had hardened their heart toward the will of God? What happened?**
- ▶ **Have you ever noticed yourself taking this same path? How can you guard yourself from this in the future?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**Unbelief abuses truth through a deliberate act of deception that ends in its own self-deception. Unbelief seizes God's truth, twists it away from God's purposes and toward its own, and is therefore forced to deny the full reality of the truth it knows. —Os Guinness**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. What is hardness of heart? What are some of the ways we can identify if our family's heart is becoming hardened?**
- 2. How does our family's response to God's Word serve as an indicator to the condition of our hearts?**
- 3. What kinds of things going on in the world today cause our family to be broken hearted for others and weep over its state while we share God's message?**
- 4. What are some of the active ways our family can help each other fight against pride?**

*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**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

## 1. Opening Statement

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

**God's Word is capable of bringing life where there is none.**

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 Lord asked Ezekiel a simple question when confronted with this scene: "Can these bones live?" When Ezekiel saw the picture of death, he knew the only way the bones could live was if God did something miraculous. No matter how much those bones might have wanted to live, they were powerless to change their situation. Can these dry bones live? You alone know, Lord. And you alone can do it.

- ▶ **Imagine you were Ezekiel. How would you respond to such a vision? How would you look at God, God's people, and your mission differently?**

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## 3. Quote for Discussion

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

**It is a prerogative of God to raise the dead. –Ambrose**

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## 4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. In what ways does God's promise to restore Israel give our family confidence in God's faithfulness? What does the Lord's promise here show us about the nature and character of God?**
- 2. Take turns sharing about a time in each of your lives when God's Word brought spiritual awakening in your life. When has this happened to your family as a whole?**
- 3. How does it encourage our family to know even when we are spiritually dead, God still pursues us with the life that only He can bring?**
- 4. How does it change our family's perspective on the gospel when we see ourselves as coming alive at the Word of God?**