

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 16:13-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

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

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

2. Thought From the Study

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

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

3. Quote for Discussion

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

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

4. Conversation Questions

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

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