

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

Mark 4:1-9,14-20

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

People respond in different ways to the message of the gospel.

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

2. Thought From the Study

Jesus began by telling the crowds to listen, to pay attention. He drew their attention to a sower. According to what Jesus taught, He is the sower and the parable is about Him. He cast His Word (we know this from Mark 1:14-15), and His message was that God's kingdom had come. But this was a rebellious message to Rome and to Pilate. Talk of God's kingdom would be seen as treasonous to the ruling authorities, so Jesus spoke in parables to the crowd— so that only those with eyes could see and only those with ears could hear (vv. 11-12). In other words, only those with receptive hearts will understand and follow.

► **What are some things that can get in the way of a heart understanding the good news of the gospel?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Work diligently the soil while you may. Break up your fallow with the plough. Cast away the stones from your field, and dig out the thorns. Be unwilling to have a "hard heart," such as makes the Word of God of no effect. Be unwilling to have a "thin layer of soil," in which the root of divine love can find no depth in which to enter. Be unwilling to "choke the good seed" by the cares and the lusts of this life, when it is being scattered for your good. When God is the sower and we are the ground, we are called to work to be good ground. —Augustine

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. Why should our family freely share the gospel with people regardless of our perception of them? What are some ways we can share the gospel together?
2. What takeaways can our family gain from Jesus' parable of the sower and the soils and its explanation?
3. What are some practical ways our family can use the lessons in the parable in our lives?
4. As a family, how can we help each other guard our hearts against things that interfere with our spiritual growth?