

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

Philippians 1:12-30

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to express joy in Jesus no matter our circumstances.

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

Difficult circumstances often visit us as well. Just like God did with Paul, He will use our hardships to bring attention to Christ. But that seems counterintuitive to most of us. We want to see Paul as the exception—that God used Paul despite his adversity. We want to believe that Paul was hindered in his imprisonment. Yes, he was able to share the gospel, but imagine how much more he could have shared the gospel if he had been free. But that is not how Paul saw it, and this is the mindset we need to resist. God didn't work despite Paul's difficulties; He worked through them.

► **How have you seen God use suffering—yours or someone else's—to make much of Jesus?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Let's not get too settled in, too satisfied with the good things down here on earth. They are only the tinkling sounds of the orchestra warming up. The real song is about to break into a heavenly symphony, and its prelude is only a few moments away. — 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 encourage those around us who are experiencing difficult seasons?
2. How does our family currently spend most of our time? What are some ways we might need to adjust this?
3. What is our family's perspective on death? How can we use this to encourage those around us?
4. What are some our family's greatest challenges in living with joy?