

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 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Christians look forward to Jesus' return and encourage others to do the same.

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

Paul made it clear that believers who are alive when the Lord returns will not be denied anything experienced by those who have already died. The dead in Christ will not enjoy an extended private reception with Jesus apart from believers who are alive. They will be raised first, but those who are alive will meet the Lord with them in the air. And at that point, all believers—living and dead—will be where they belong, with Jesus.

- ▶ **What thoughts and emotions do you experience when you read Paul's teaching on both the dead and living in Christ being with Him at His return?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

There is no love without hope, no hope without love, and neither love nor hope without faith. —Augustine of Hippo

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. When does our family find it difficult to live for Christ? Why?
2. How has our family comforted others who have experienced loss? How have others comforted us in seasons of loss?
3. Think about our family's current circumstances. How does the certainty and hope of Jesus' return affect the way you view the present?
4. In what areas of our life do we see God sanctifying us as a family?