

## SESSION 2 - FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

These Family Conversations are designed to help you create moments to talk about God and faith in your family. We want to encourage you to carve out a moment each week to read and discuss each Family Conversation. This could be over the dinner table, before bedtime, or whenever works best for your family. In each Family Conversation, you will find four parts.

- Scripture: Read the passage out loud, or encourage a family member to read.
- Devotion: Read this to your family.
- Conversation: Pick and choose what questions are best for your family to discuss.
- Prayer: Pray for your family, or encourage a family member to pray.

Just as a heads-up, things probably won't go as planned with your Family Conversations. Your family may interrupt, someone probably won't pay attention, and there may not be any grand spiritual moments. What matters most is that you are seeking God as a family. Faith in your family is more often caught than taught. Your family will most likely forget these devotions, but they will remember the intentionality and time together. That will set the stage for you to model faith and continue building a spiritual legacy in your family.

### SCRIPTURE:

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

John 17:20-23

### DEVOTION:

Have you ever been to a live sporting event and heard the loud cheers of a crowd full of fans! At that moment, coaches, players, and fans are all united in the goal of winning the game. There is something powerful when a group of people come together with a common mission. This is similar to what WE are called to be as the Church.

In John 17, Jesus prays for us (future believers). He asks God to help His followers be unified, so that all people will know who God is and that they are loved. Today, there are many things that can divide the followers of Jesus. What connects us all as believers is our shared love for God and His love for us. This is more important than any arguments or differences we might have. In the Church, when we choose God over our differences, bear with one another, and strive toward peace, it shows God's character and love. It announces to everyone watching that God is real and He can bring about life change.

On a smaller scale, think about our family. Has there been a time when we have loved each other even though we are different? Or, how about a time when we have annoyed or angered one another and offered forgiveness. When we pursue these things in the midst of our differences or arguments, it reveals God working in our lives. It builds unity in our family. Jesus calls our family and His family (the Church) to be one. Together we are united in working towards His glory, building each other up, and helping other people see God.

#### **CONVERSATION:**

- Share a story from a time you attended a live sporting event. What was it like cheering your team on?
- What are some differences that we can celebrate in our family? What are some things that unite us as a family?
- How do you think our family's unity can show others the character and love of God?
- In what ways can our family show love and kindness to others, especially when we have different opinions?

#### **PRAYER:**

Follow the example of Jesus and pray for unity in your family and church. Ask for the strength to love others even when it is hard. Finally, pray for God to be revealed to people as your family and church pursue unity.