

SESSION 6 - 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:

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4

DEVOTION:

The Church is eternal and has a future. Through Jesus, we have a promise that, one day, we will be freed from the very presence and effects of sin in Heaven. Revelation 21 reveals that there will be no more fighting, unkind words, sickness, suffering, anxiety, and stress. There will be nothing that leads us to sadness, grief, or tears, because death and mourning will be no more. In fact, Heaven will be so great that we cannot fully imagine it. Your best thoughts on your best day will still fall short of how Heaven will be. What we know for sure is that we will be in the full presence of God.

The big question we have to ask ourselves is what do we do in the meantime? We are not in Heaven yet, so what are we supposed to do in the here and now? The answer—we are called to bring a little bit of Heaven to Earth.

Have you ever thought about our family being a miniature version of the Church? Remember, the Church is a people, not a building. Guess what, our family is made up of people! This means our family can live like the Church and bring a little bit of Heaven to others. The New Testament speaks to who we are as the Church and what we are called to do for one another. What if our family put into practice the characteristics of the Church? Some examples are: love one another, forgive one another, serve one another, and encourage one another. If these became the defining characteristics of our family, we would experience a little bit of Heaven. We could probably bring a little bit of Heaven with us wherever we go. If that is the case, our family could help others know Jesus and join the celebration found in Revelation 21:3-4.

CONVERSATION:

- Even though we cannot fully comprehend it, what do you imagine Heaven will be like?
- How does the hope we have in Heaven impact the way you live out your faith now?
- Read through the “one anothers” found in *We Are The Church | One Anothering* (pg. 127). Share some specific examples or stories of how any of these “one anothers” have shown up in your home/family?
- Together, select at least three “one anothers” for which you want your family to be known. How can you incorporate these into your home and normal family rhythms?

PRAYER:

Together as a family, thank God for the hope of Heaven and the promise of a future without sin. Ask God to work through your family to bring a little bit of Heaven to the present and to be defined by living out the “one another” passages.