

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

### EPHESIANS 2:17-22

Topic: Relationship with Christ

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** We often join clubs, teams, and organizations because of the perks and benefits we receive. Unfortunately, we often approach the church in the same way. The privilege of being a part of the body of Christ, though, does not come from anything we've done or paid for. Instead, Christ paid the price and made it possible for us to be a part of the church, God's family.

## PRESCHOOL



### EXODUS 1:8-2:10

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk about times when a child might feel alone or frightened. Help your child thank God for parents or other family members who can help him feel better during those times.

Pharaoh thought there were too many Hebrews in Egypt. He wanted to harm the Hebrew baby boys.

One mother hid her baby boy for three months. But he grew too big to hide any longer. She made a basket from reeds and coated it with tar. She put the baby in the basket and set the basket in the reeds by the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, watched the baby.

Pharaoh's daughter came to the river. She saw the basket and sent a servant to get it. When she saw the baby in the basket, he was crying. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew boys."

Miriam said, "Should I go and call one of the Hebrew women to take care of the baby?"

Pharaoh's daughter said yes. Miriam brought her mother. When the baby was older the mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses.

## KIDS



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## STUDENTS



### EPHESIANS 2:17-22

**THE POINT:** It's important to be connected to the body of Christ.

- How are you connected to the body of Christ?

Discuss the following quote:  
"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more

than going to a garage makes you an automobile."<sup>1</sup>  
—Billy Sunday

1. William T. Ellis, "Billy" Sunday: *The Man and His Message* (Philadelphia: L.T. Myers, 1914), 155.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **I Am Connected:***

- Discuss with your student benefits of being connected to the church.
- Suggest to your student different ways he or she can connect to the body of Christ.

*If he plans to do **Connection Plan:***

- Challenge your student develop a plan to invite someone to church.
- Be an example for your student by inviting unconnected people to church.

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**EPHESIANS 4:1-6**

Topic: Christian Unity

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** All sports carry a high level of excitement in championship games, but the excitement is even greater when a team with only average talent wins. Talent has a role in winning games, but what can really make a difference is when the individual players work together as a single unit—a team. This principle is all the more critical when we're talking about the life and ministry of the church. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to work together in complete unity.

### PRESCHOOL



#### EXODUS 5-12

**LIVE IT OUT:** March around the room playing follow the leader with your child. Remind him that God had a plan for Moses to lead the people and Moses obeyed. Help your preschooler learn that God has a plan for his life, too.

The Israelites worked hard for Pharaoh. God spoke to Moses. "Go and tell Pharaoh to let My people go. I will show Pharaoh My power. Tell the people of Israel that I will free them."

Moses and Aaron went to speak to Pharaoh. "God says, 'Let My people go!'" said Moses. Pharaoh said, "No!"

To show His power, God made the water in the Nile River undrinkable. But Pharaoh did not let the people go. Eight more times they went to Pharaoh. Each time God made something happen to the Egyptians—frogs, gnats, loss of cattle, boils, hail, locusts, and no sun in the day. Pharaoh did not let the people go.

Moses told the people to get ready. God knew that Pharaoh was finally going to let the people leave. The people did what God said. The next morning, Pharaoh allowed the people to leave Egypt.

### KIDS



#### EXODUS 5-12

**LIVE IT OUT:** Remind your child that God had a plan for Moses to lead the people and Moses obeyed. Help your child learn that God has a plan for his life, too. Help him begin to discover what that plan is.

The Israelites worked hard for Pharaoh. God spoke to Moses. "Go and tell Pharaoh to let My people go. I will show Pharaoh My power. Tell the people of Israel that I will free them."

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### STUDENTS



#### EPHESIANS 4:1-6

**THE POINT:** Unity within the body of Christ takes work.

- How do you handle discord?
- Discuss with your student the appropriate way to handle disagreements between believers.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Build Unity**:*

- Suggest some ways your student can help build unity within his or her group.
- Commit to build unity in your own group.

*If he plans to do **Encourage Others**:*

- Discuss your student's ideas of how to be an encourager this week.
- Generously encourage your student this week.

Discuss the following quote: "To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer."<sup>1</sup> —Martin Luther

1. "Martin Luther Quotes," Brainy Quote, [cited March 19, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.brainyquote.com>.

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

**EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

*Topic: Spiritual Growth*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** Rooted in the American dream is the idea of the self-made individual—a person who rises from a low level to become great. The self-made person, though, is a myth. No one can rise to any level without the help and support of others. That is certainly true in the church. God designed His church so that we need and support one another. Growth in Christ occurs in the context of connecting with other believers.

### PRESCHOOL



#### EXODUS 13:17–15:21

**LIFE POINT:** Talk about how adults hold preschoolers' hands as they cross a busy street. Ask your child why they think that happens. Help him understand that even though we can't see God, we can trust God to take care of us even when we are scared.

Pharaoh told the people to leave Egypt. Moses led the people, God showed the way. God led by a cloud in the day and a fire at night.

God told Moses to tell the people to camp. God knew Pharaoh would chase them. The Egyptians would see God's power and know that God was the only God.

Pharaoh came after the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt. When the people saw the Egyptians coming, they were frightened. Moses said, "Do not be afraid!" God told Moses, "Stretch your staff across the sea." Moses obeyed, and God divided the sea with a great wind. The waters were piled up on either side, and the people walked across the sea on dry land!

When the people were safe, God told Moses to stretch his hand out again. The waters of the sea came back together. God had saved the people. The people were happy and sang a song to God.

### KIDS



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### STUDENTS



#### EPHESIANS 4:11-16

**THE POINT:** Use your gifts to build up the community of faith.

- What are your gifts?
- How are you using them to build up the church?

Discuss the following quote: "It is only when men begin to worship

that they begin to grow."<sup>1</sup>—Calvin Coolidge

1. Lewis C. Henry, ed. *5000 Quotations for All Occasions* (Philadelphia, PA: The Blackiston Company, 1945), 319.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Learn to Serve**:*

- Point out to your student places of service within the church.
- Search out opportunities and commit to serve with your student.

*If he plans to do **Find a Mentor**:*

- Encourage your student to seek a mentor.
- Consider being a mentor.

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

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**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** Words can last a lifetime. We can use our words to build up or tear down, but as the church of Jesus Christ, we are given only one option: build up. The Holy Spirit can empower us to use what we say to glorify God.

**EPHESIANS 4:25-32**

*Topic: Honor God*

### PRESCHOOL



#### EXODUS 20

**LIVE IT OUT:** Ask your preschooler some ways she can obey you (parents). Remind her that just as we obey our parents, it is important to do what God wants us to do.

God gave the people ten special rules called commandments to help them know what to do. These are the rules God spoke.

- \* I am God. There is no other God. Love only Me.
- \* Do not make anything of gold or wood to worship. Worship only Me.
- \* Always say God's name with respect.
- \* Work on six days, but rest on the seventh. It is a day special to God.
- \* Obey your father and mother.
- \* Do not kill anyone.
- \* Keep your marriage promises.
- \* Do not take anything that is not yours.
- \* Always tell the truth.
- \* Do not want other people's things.

When the people heard thunder and lightning, they were afraid. Moses said, "Do not be afraid. God wants you to love and obey Him."

### KIDS



#### EXODUS 20

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child think of ten ways kids can obey their parents. Write them down and number them from 1-10. Remind your child that just as people should obey their parents, it is even more important to do what God wants them to do.

God gave the people ten special rules, called Commandments, to help them know how to live and what to do. These are the rules God spoke:

- I am God. There is no other God. Love only Me.
- Do not make anything of gold or wood to worship. Worship only Me.
- Always say God's name in a respectful way.
- Work on six days, but rest on the seventh. It is a day special to God.
- Obey your father and mother. Do not kill anyone. Keep your marriage promises. Do not take anything that is not yours. Always tell the truth. Be happy with what you have. Do not want other people's things. Then the people heard thunder and saw lightning. They were frightened. Moses said, "Do not be afraid. God wants you to love and obey Him."

### STUDENTS



#### EPHESIANS 4:25-32

**THE POINT:** Our words matter.

- Do your words tear down or build up?
- Discuss with your student the power of words.

Discuss the following quote:  
"Somehow, what's in our hearts,

good or bad is eventually translated into words and deeds."<sup>1</sup>  
—Andy Stanley

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Watch Your Words:***

- Challenge your student to be mindful of his or her words this week.
- Share with your student a time in your own life where your words got you in trouble.

*If he plans to do **Good Words:***

- Challenge your student to memorize Psalm 19:14.
- Memorize Psalm 19:14 yourself. Discuss with your student how you best memorize Scripture.

1. Andy Stanley, *Enemies of the Heart* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2011), 31.

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**EPHESIANS 5:15-21**

*Topic: Christian Service*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** At the root of all our problems is a selfish bent, an emphasis on “what I want.” While it’s good to be a part of a church that will help us grow in Christ, sometimes we cross the line when we make the church all about what it can do for us personally. The church is to help us grow, but as a part of body of Christ, we are also to be involved in serving and helping others grow.

### PRESCHOOL



#### DEUTERONOMY 4-6

**LIVE IT OUT:** With your child, look at a picture of your family. Lead her to do one kind thing this week for each person in the picture. Mention that it pleases God when we help our family.

The Israelites were getting ready to go into the land that God had promised them. Moses spoke to the people before they went into the land.

Moses told the people to remember everything that God had done for them. He reminded the people that God had brought them out of Egypt and led them to the land that He had promised to give them. Moses reminded the people of the Ten Commandments that God had given them.

Moses told the people they must worship only the One true God.

Moses said, “And this commandment is the greatest: love God with all your heart and all your strength. Teach these words to your children so that they will love God. God will bless your families for many years if you keep His commandments.”

### KIDS



#### DEUTERONOMY 4-6

**LIVE IT OUT:** Draw a picture of your family. Promise to do at least one kind thing this week for each person in your picture.

The Israelites were getting ready to go into the land that God had promised them. Moses spoke to the people before they went into the land.

Moses told the people to remember everything that God had done for them. He reminded the people that God had brought them out of Egypt and led them to the land that He had promised to give them. Moses reminded the people of the Ten Commandments that God had given them.

He told the people they must worship only the One true God. Moses said, “And this commandment is the greatest: love God with all your heart, all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Teach these words to your children, so that they will love Me. I will bless your families for many years if you keep my Commandments.”

### STUDENTS



#### EPHESIANS 5:15-21

**THE POINT:** Serving in the body of Christ is a wise use of our time.

- Discuss your student’s current schedule. Ask: Is this a wise use of your time?
- Consider your own time. Are you using it to serve the body of Christ?

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Preferences**:*

- Reflect with your student times when you’ve complained about preferences in your church.
- Determine to prioritize your real issues over preferences.

*If he plans to do **Appreciate Your Leader**:*

- Suggest ways your student can serve the leaders of your church.
- Pray with your student for your church leaders.

Discuss the following quote: “Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.”<sup>1</sup> —Gilbert K. Chesterton

1. “G.K. Chesterton Quotes,” Goodreads, [cited March 20, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <https://www.goodreads.com>.

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** The church on mission is a threat to Satan. It's important that we pray for one another—and certainly for those in positions of leadership in the church. God, in ways we don't always understand fully, chooses to work through the prayers of believers.

**EPHESIANS 6:18-22**

*Topic: Prayer*

### PRESCHOOL



#### EXODUS 3:1–4:17

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child roll a piece of paper into a megaphone. Shout "I love You" to God.

Before Moses led the Israelite people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, or God gave the Ten Commandments, or Moses spoke to families, Moses talked to God. Here is what the Bible says:

One day Moses was tending sheep. He was by a mountain.

Moses saw a bush that was on fire. But the bush did not burn up! Moses went closer to see this amazing sight.

Then God spoke to Moses from the bush. God called Moses' name, and Moses answered. God told Moses to remove his sandals because this was a special place. Then God told Moses His plans to bring the Israelite people out of Egypt.

Moses spoke with God and tried to make excuses. But God told Moses, "You will be the one to do this!"

After talking with God, Moses obeyed.

### KIDS



#### EXODUS 3:1–4:17

**LIVE IT OUT:** Roll a piece of paper into a megaphone. Shout: "I love you" to God. Plan to pray together and talk to God each day this week.

Moses was watching some sheep when he saw a bush that burned, but did not burn up. God spoke to Moses from the bush. "You will lead my people out of Egypt," God said.

When Moses led the people in the desert, they found water. But they could not drink it. God showed Moses a tree to put in the water. Then the water was good to drink.

Another time Moses asked God for water. God told him to hit a rock. Water ran out of the rock!

God was angry that His people were doing wrong. Moses asked God to keep the people safe. God did not harm the people.

Moses went up the mountain. God spoke to him, and gave him the Ten Commandments again. When Moses went down the mountain, his face glowed! The people were afraid when they saw Moses. He told them everything God said to him on the mountain.

### STUDENTS



#### EPHESIANS 6:18-22

**THE POINT:** Support your church with prayer.

- Do you pray for your church?
- Commit to praying daily for your church with your family.

Discuss the following quote: "We have to pray with our eyes on

God, not on the difficulties."<sup>1</sup> —Oswald Chambers

1. "Oswald Chamber Quotes," Goodreads, [cited March 21, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <https://www.goodreads.com>.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Prayer List**:*

- Lead your student by praying with him or her for needs in the church.
- Discuss with your student a time you had to pray with persistence.

*If he plans to do **Missionary**:*

- Help your student identify a missionary or missionary family to pray for.
- Post a picture (or name) around your house, committing to pray for this missionary whenever you see it.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

**GENESIS 37:19-27;  
39:1-2**

*Topic: Betrayal*

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 37

**LIVE IT OUT:** Hold up one hand and say the words of the Bible Verse while pointing to each finger on your hand. Invite your child to repeat it. Remind her that when she feels alone, she can look at the fingers on her hand and remember that God is always with her.

Joseph lived in a family with ten older brothers and one younger brother. Jacob, Joseph's father, loved him very much. But Joseph's brothers were angry with him because he told their father they had done something wrong.

Joseph's father gave him a beautiful coat made of many colors. When his brothers saw the coat, they were jealous of Joseph's coat.

Once, Joseph dreamed dreams that showed he was more powerful than his older brothers. He told his brothers about the dreams. The brothers thought Joseph believed he could rule them.

One day Joseph's father sent him to check on his brothers who were minding the sheep. When they saw him coming, they decided to harm Joseph. They took his coat and put him in a well. When some traders came by, the brothers sold Joseph to them.

The traders took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 37

**LIVE IT OUT:** Hold both hands. Invite your child to say the words of the Life Verse with you while pointing to each finger. Remind her that when she feels alone, she can look at her fingers and remember that God will never leave her.

Joseph had ten older brothers and one younger brother. Joseph's father gave him a beautiful coat made of many colors. When his brothers saw the coat, they were jealous.

Once Joseph dreamed that he and his brothers were tying up grain in a field. Their grain bowed down to his. In another dream the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph. His brothers thought that Joseph believed he was better than them.

One day Joseph's father sent him to check on his brothers who were minding the sheep. The brothers grabbed Joseph and threw him in an empty hole in the ground. They took his coat and sold him as a slave to some traders.

Joseph's brothers put blood on the coat and took it to their father. He was very sad because he thought Joseph was dead. But the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, an important man in Egypt.

### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 37:19-27; 39:1-2

**THE POINT:** Even when it is not obvious, God is still at work.

- Do you trust God?
- Discuss with your student a time when you struggled to see God at work. Looking back, how did God use this time to shape you?

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Reach Out**:*

- Pray with your student for the people he or she identified as struggling.
- Discuss with your student ways to be a good encourager.

*If he plans to do **Reflect**:*

- Talk with your student a time you felt hurt or betrayed. How did you see God at work during that situation?
- Ask your student what he or she has learned through reading the passages of Scripture this week.

Discuss the following quote: "We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth."<sup>1</sup> —Charles Stanley

1. Charles Stanley, *How to Listen to God* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985), 19.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

GENESIS 39:3-12

Topic: Temptation

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** Sin is so enticing and compelling on the front end; but afterward, as we face the consequences of giving in, we see our sin from a different perspective. It is in the aftermath that we often ask ourselves with regret, "Why did I give in?" Through the life of Joseph, the Bible gives us an example of how the Holy Spirit moves us beyond temptation to make the right choice.

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 39

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your preschooler think of times he has been tempted to do wrong things (not sharing, disobeying, telling a lie, etc.). Remind him that God is always with him and can help him make the right choice.

Joseph had been taken to Potiphar's house in Egypt to work as a servant. Potiphar was an important officer in Pharaoh's army. God took care of Joseph. God helped Joseph become successful. Potiphar liked Joseph, and soon he became Potiphar's helper. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole house and all his business. Potiphar trusted Joseph. Potiphar did not have to worry about anything. God blessed Potiphar's house because of Joseph. Potiphar's wife liked Joseph, too. She wanted Joseph to make a wrong choice. But Joseph said no. So Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph to Potiphar. Even though Potiphar trusted Joseph, he believed his wife. He sent Joseph to Pharaoh's prison.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 39

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child think of times he's been tempted to do wrong things (examples: not sharing, disobeying, telling a lie). Remind him that God is always with him and can help him make the right choice.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar. Potiphar was an important officer of the king. God helped Joseph to do his job as a slave well. Potiphar saw that everything Joseph did turned out good. He put Joseph in charge of all he owned. Potiphar's wife liked Joseph, too. But she tried to get Joseph to do something wrong. She grew angry when Joseph would not do what she wanted. Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph. Potiphar was very angry. Even though Potiphar trusted Joseph, he believed his wife. He had Joseph thrown in prison. God was good to Joseph even in prison. The guard liked Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners.

### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 39:3-12

**THE POINT:** It's easier to fight temptation when you're pursuing God's purposes.

- What temptation do you struggle with?
- Discuss with your student a time when you overcame temptation.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Know Temptation**:*

- Discuss with your student some of his or her current struggles with temptation.
- Share with your student a favorite verse that helps you overcome temptation.

*If he plans to do **It Is Written**:*

- Help your student identify areas where he or she struggles with temptation.
- Guide your student to "It Is Written" Scripture verses to help with these struggles.

Discuss the following quote: "Sin always seems 'good, and pleasant, and desirable,' at the time of commission."<sup>1</sup>

—J. C. Ryle

1. J. C. Ryle, *The Priest, The Puritan, and The Preacher* (New York, NY: Robert Carter and Brother, 1856), 237.



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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

**GENESIS 39:21-23;  
40:5-8,20-23**

*Topic: Feeling Insignificant*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** We all find ourselves from time to time in less than ideal circumstances. We can feel like our dreams are gone or the world has passed us by. The Book of Genesis shows us Joseph, a man whose circumstances were far from ideal, yet he was not defeated by his circumstances. Because we are believers, we can focus on what Christ has done and will do, not on the circumstances we are in.

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 39:21–40:23

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk with your child about ways God helps us. Pray together, thanking God for loving us and helping us.

Joseph was in prison. God cared for Joseph in prison. The head of the prison liked Joseph and put him in charge of all the others.

Two of the prisoners were Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. The cupbearer brought drinks to Pharaoh, and the baker made Pharaoh's bread. Each had a dream and wanted to know what it meant. Joseph said, "God will help me know about your dreams."

The cupbearer told Joseph his dream. Joseph said the dream meant he would get his job back. The cupbearer was happy. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when he returned to his job. The baker told Joseph his dream. Joseph told him his dream meant he would not continue to work for Pharaoh.

In three days Pharaoh gave a party. The cupbearer got his job back, but the baker did not. All happened just as God had told Joseph. But the cupbearer did not remember Joseph.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 39:21–40:23

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk about dreams. Ask your child about dreams she has had. Explain that God will help your child when she needs help, just as God helped Joseph understand what the king's dreams meant. Ask what your child would like God to help her with.

Joseph was in prison. God cared for Joseph in prison. The head of the prison liked Joseph and put him in charge of all the others.

Two of the prisoners in Joseph's care were king Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. Each had a dream and wanted to know what it meant. Joseph said, "God will help me know what they mean."

The cupbearer told his dream. Joseph said his dream meant he would get his job back. The cupbearer was happy. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when he returned to his job.

Then the baker told his dream, and Joseph told him his dream meant he would die.

In three days Pharaoh gave a party for all his servants. He gave the cupbearer his job back, but the baker died. Everything happened just as God had told Joseph. But the cupbearer did not remember what Joseph had done for him.

### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 39:21-23; 40:5-8,20-23

**THE POINT:** Regardless of your circumstance, keep doing what God has gifted you to do.

- Have you ever felt forgotten?
- Discuss with your student how God never forgets us.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Gifted**:*

- Guide your student to identify ways that God can use him or her, even when no one sees.
- Pray for your student to desire to serve for God's glory, not his or her own.

*If he plans to do **While You Wait**:*

- Discuss with your student a time when you felt forgotten.
- Pray with your student to persevere even when he or she feels left behind.

Discuss the following quote: "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."<sup>1</sup> —Mother Teresa

1. Mother Theresa Quotes," Brainy Quote, [cited March 22, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.brainyquote.com>.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** We have all been through hard times, but God is bigger than our circumstances. In the Book of Genesis, we see how God prepared and led Joseph in advance of difficult times. While our situation is different from Joseph's, we can trust the Holy Spirit today to prepare us for and lead us through hard times of our own.

**GENESIS 41:28-36,46-49**

*Topic: Dealing with Crisis*

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 41

**LIVE IT OUT:** As your child watches, place several coins in an offering envelope and seal it. Allow your child to carry the offering to church. Help her place the envelope in the offering plate. Whisper, "This is one way you can give to God."

Pharaoh had a dream. No one who could tell him what the dream meant. Then the cupbearer remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh.

Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Pharaoh told Joseph his dream about seven healthy cows and seven thin cows and seven large heads of grain and seven thin heads of grain. Joseph said that God would help him understand the meaning of the dream.

Joseph said that for seven years much food would grow and then seven years of famine when little food would grow.

Joseph told Pharaoh to appoint a man to gather extra food in the seven good years and to save it for the years of famine.

Pharaoh liked the plan. He put Joseph in charge of gathering the food. Joseph was in charge of everything in Egypt. When the famine came, people came to Joseph to buy food for their families. God helped Joseph, and the people had enough food.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 41

**LIVE IT OUT:** If you ever pay your child for helping with small jobs around the house, or if you give him an allowance, use coins so that he can more easily understand tithing, giving an offering to God, and saving instead of just spending.

Pharaoh had a dream. No one who could tell him what the dream meant. Then the cupbearer remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh.

Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Pharaoh told Joseph his dream about seven healthy cows and seven thin cows and seven large heads of grain and seven thin heads of grain. Joseph said that God would help him understand the meaning of the dream.

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Pharaoh liked the plan. He put Joseph in charge of gathering the food. Joseph was in charge of everything in Egypt. When the famine came, people came to Joseph to buy food for their families. God helped Joseph, and the people had enough food.

### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 41:28-36,46-49

**THE POINT:** God has a plan to see you through any crisis.

- Do you trust God to take care of you?
- Discuss with your student a time where you had to trust God through a crisis.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Be Thankful:***

- Invite your student to talk about what he or she is thankful for?
- Lead your student by example. Discuss with him or her 5 things you are thankful for.

*If he plans to do **Ministry to Others:***

- Challenge your student to minister to people going through hard times. Serve alongside him or her.
- Pray for your student to trust God whenever he or she deals with a crisis.

Discuss the following quote: "The strong hands of God twisted the crown of thorns into a crown of glory; and in such hands we are safe."<sup>1</sup> —Charles Williams

1. "Christian Quotes - Anxiety and Worry Index," Daily Christian Quote, [cited March 22, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <http://dailychristianquote.com>.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**GENESIS 45:3-11**

*Topic: Forgiveness*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** The actions of others, like betrayal and bad decisions, can leave us bitter. We can let bitterness continue to eat at us or we can let it go—and forgive. Forgiveness is difficult because the memory of the hurt continues to pull us back into bitterness. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can move beyond such a destructive attitude, as we see in the life of Joseph.

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 42-45

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk with your child about who has made him angry. Help him think of a way to show love to that person. Mention that it pleases God when we forgive others.

In the land where Joseph's family lived, there was also a famine. Joseph's father, Jacob, sent his ten older sons to Egypt to buy food.

When his brothers came to buy food, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know him. He gave all the brothers their bags of grain, including the money they had used to pay for the grain, and sent them home. He kept one brother and told the other brothers to bring Benjamin when they came back.

Jacob was unhappy. He did not want to send Benjamin to Egypt. They ran out of food, and the brothers went back to Egypt.

When Joseph saw his brothers, he had a meal prepared for them. He told them who he was. The brothers were afraid because of what they had done, but Joseph had forgiven them. He said, "Do not be afraid of me. God sent me here to help you have what you need." Jacob, all his sons, and their families moved to Egypt.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 42-45

**LIVE IT OUT:** Talk about times when someone has made your child angry. Ask how your child can show love to that person.

Joseph's brothers had no food, so they went to Egypt to buy food. "These men are my brothers!" thought Joseph. But the brothers did not know who Joseph was.

Joseph told a servant to return their money and hide it in their food sacks. When the brothers got home, they found the money.

"We must take Benjamin with us to Egypt," the brothers said. Jacob agreed.

In Egypt, Joseph told the servant, "Put money in their food sacks. Hide my silver cup in Benjamin's bag."

When he found the cup, the brothers went to Joseph. They asked Joseph not to punish Benjamin. Joseph told his brothers who he was. He told them God sent him to Egypt to take care of them.

The brothers brought their father and their families to live in Egypt.

### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 45:3-11

**THE POINT:** Relationships can only move forward with forgiveness.

- Do have someone you need to forgive?
- Discuss with your student how the Lord calls us to forgive each other.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Seek Forgiveness**:*

- Encourage your student to seek forgiveness with the appropriate attitude.
- Pray for your student's relationships, asking the Lord to heal them.

*If he plans to do **Forgiven**:*

- Talk with your student about what forgiveness from Christ really means. Allow him or her to guide the conversation.
- Discuss with your student opportunities to extend forgiveness in your own life.

Discuss the following quote: "Bitterness is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die."<sup>1</sup> —John Ortberg, Jr.

1. "John Ortberg, Jr. Quotes," Goodreads, [cited March 21, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <https://www.goodreads.com>.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

TM

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** If this world were all we knew, it would be easy to sink into disappointment and bitterness. What hope do we have if our circumstances always seem against us? If we could see our situations from God's perspective, we wouldn't feel hopeless by the way life may have turned out. Like Joseph, we can recognize God's hand in all that we face.

**GENESIS 50:15-21**

*Topic: Compassion*

### PRESCHOOL



#### GENESIS 50

**LIVE IT OUT:** Lead your child to think of someone in your family who needs kindness. Help your child make a gift for that person. Note that God wants us to show kindness.

Joseph's father, Jacob, grew old. After many years, he died. Joseph and his family were sad. Even the Egyptians were sad that Joseph's father had died.

Joseph said to Pharaoh, "I promised my father I would take him to Canaan, his homeland, after he died. Let me go there."

All of Joseph's family and his brothers went with him to Canaan. Many Egyptians went with Joseph. Then Joseph returned to Egypt.

Joseph's brothers were afraid of him because of the wrong thing they had done many years before. They were afraid that Joseph would be unkind to them after their father died.

Joseph told his brothers, "Do not be afraid. I will not be unkind to you. Even though you were unkind to me, God had a plan for me. He placed me here for a reason." Joseph was always kind to his brothers and their families.

### KIDS



#### GENESIS 50

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child think of a neighbor, friend, or family member who needs kindness. Help your child make a hand-made gift to give to that person.

Joseph's father, Jacob, grew old. After many years, he died. Joseph and his family were sad. Even the Egyptians were sad that Joseph's father had died.

Joseph said to Pharaoh, "I promised my father I would take him to Canaan, his homeland, after he died. Let me go there."

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### STUDENTS



#### GENESIS 50:15-21

**THE POINT:** We can trust God is at work on our behalf.

- What's something you appreciate now that you didn't appreciate as a student?

Discuss the following quote: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is

on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."<sup>1</sup> —Abraham Lincoln

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Fear Not**:*

- Share a fear of yours with your student.
- Encourage your student to memorize Scripture that helps him or her through times of fear.

*If he plans to do **Trusting God**:*

- Challenge your student to journal his or her thoughts about trusting God.
- Discuss a time when trusting God brought you peace.

1. "Abraham Lincoln Quotes, "Brainy Quote, [cited March 22, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.brainyquote.com>.

# ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE™

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:2-7**

*Topic: Comfort*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** We readily pray for each other when we're dealing with sickness, surgeries, cancer, or some chronic illness. Mental illness, on the other hand, is not often mentioned. Mental illness can take many forms, and it is estimated that 1 in 10 people suffer from depression. People suffering from mental illness are all around us, including the church. We should not ignore it or look the other way. The Bible gives us direction on how we can help those who suffer.

### PRESCHOOL



#### 1 KINGS 17:1,8-16

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your preschooler think of a snack you can prepare for someone. Make the snack together. Mention that God gives us food to eat.

Elijah was a prophet of God. God spoke to Elijah, and Elijah told people what God said. The people disobeyed God, so God stopped the rain. Because there was no rain, enough food did not grow.

God told Elijah, "Go to Zarephath. A woman there will help you."

Elijah did what God said. He found a woman gathering wood.

Elijah asked the woman, "May I have a cup of water and bread?"

"I have no bread," the woman answered. "I have only a small amount of flour and oil, barely enough for my son and me to have one meal."

Then Elijah said, "Do not be afraid. Go and make the bread and bring it to me. Then make one for you and your son. God will not let the flour and oil run out. It will last until the rain comes."

The widow did as Elijah said. God did what He said He would do. They ate for many days.

### KIDS



#### 1 KINGS 17:1,8-16

**LIVE IT OUT:** Help your child think of a snack the two of you can prepare for someone. Make and deliver the snack. Then enjoy a snack together after you thank God for His goodness.

Elijah was a prophet of God. God spoke to Elijah, and Elijah told people what God said. The people disobeyed God, so God stopped the rain. Because there was no rain, enough food did not grow.

God told Elijah, "Go to Zarephath. A woman there will help you."

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The widow did as Elijah said. God did what He said He would do. They ate for many days.

### STUDENTS



#### 2 CORINTHIANS 1:2-7

**THE POINT:** Christians are to care for those suffering from mental illness.

- Do you know someone who suffers with mental illness?
- Discuss with your student the different perceptions of mental illness in the church.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to do one or both Live It Out activities in the Personal Study Guide. Here are some suggested ways to help your student:

*If he plans to complete **Raise Awareness**:*

- Research mental illness with your student.
- Discuss with your student how you can both help the educate others about mental illness.

*If he plans to do **Prayer Time**:*

- Pray together for people in the church who suffer with mental illness.
- Lead your student in being an encourager to those in the church that are suffering with mental illness.

Discuss the following quote: "I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."<sup>1</sup> —Mother Teresa

1. "Mother Teresa Quotes," Brainy Quote, [cited March 24, 2014]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.brainyquote.com>.