

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

James 2:1-13

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God calls us to avoid showing favoritism and to extend mercy to all.

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

Favoritism is not just evil because it is self-serving; it is far more sinister than that. Favoritism undermines the gospel itself. James reminded the church that God chose the poor of the world to be rich in faith (Psa. 68:10; Matt. 5:3). Through our neediness—financial, spiritual, and otherwise—we turn to seek help from others. And in that helpless state, the gospel takes root in the heart and begins to grow, and we begin to experience God's extravagant grace in our lives.

► **How do your goals, desires, and choices reflect God's will for your life rather than the world's?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Greatness in the kingdom of God is measured in terms of obedience. —John Stott

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. When is our family tempted to judge others rather than extending mercy?
2. Why is it so important for our family to extend mercy to others no matter what?
3. In what ways is our family sometimes tempted to side with the world's view of things rather than God's view?
4. What are some ways others can see Christ in each of our family members individually, and in our interactions as a family and with others?