

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

## Scripture

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

## Session Summary

Christians follow a resurrected Savior, the One who has conquered death and given us eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (John 11:25). While our souls have been set free from the curse, we still await the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:11, 23). So, in the meantime, we and those we love experience physical death. There is a place for sorrow and grief in the Christian life. We ought to mourn the effects of the curse, but our mourning is not a despair. It is a temporary sorrow that is characterized by hope. Hope says, "God, I trust you with the future, even though this hurts right now."

God is redeeming all creation by re-creating a curse-free world. This began with the resurrection of Jesus, will continue through the resurrection of the saints, and will one day come to completion in the New Creation. Jesus endured the curse and triumphed over it, and those who belong to Him will experience that same victory. The return of Christ will come like a thief and bring destruction that is inescapable for those who reject Christ (1 Thess. 5:1-3). For God's people, it is not a day to fear, but a day to prepare for. Much like when a special guest is coming to your house and you prepare for their arrival, so the church should be busy preparing for Christ's coming.

- How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope despite the death and sorrow of this life?
- How should Christ's return motivate us to share the gospel more?
- Why don't we need to be afraid of Jesus' return?
- What kind of lifestyle shows that we are prepared for Jesus' return?

Make a plan to invite friends or family over to your house. Give each family member in your home a responsibility for the party. One person could be responsible for a food item, drinks, cleaning up, an activity during the party, etc. When everything is over that night, discuss how each person had to prepare for the guests arrival. Explain how we should prepare our lives for Jesus' arrival. Christ is coming and Paul reminds us to be prepared—not out of fear, but because we love the One who is coming.