

SESSION 5 | 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.
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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:

"One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven...'²⁴ So he said to the paralyzed man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, 'We have seen remarkable things today.'"

Luke 5:17-20; 24-26

DEVOTION:

Have you ever had a friend do something amazing for you? Maybe they stood up for you, gave you a gift, helped you through a tough time, or just made sure you weren't alone. In this story, we read about a group of friends who went above and beyond, and it changed everything.

Their friend couldn't walk. They had heard about the miracles of Jesus and believed He could help. When they got to the house where Jesus was teaching, it was packed with people everywhere. There was no way to get to Jesus. Instead of giving up, they got creative, climbed up on the roof, made a hole in it, and lowered their friend down right in front of Jesus.

Can you imagine that? Dust falling, pieces of debris, people looking up asking what is going on, and suddenly a man is lowered down through the ceiling.

All of this happens right in the middle of Jesus' teaching. It's important to pay attention to what Jesus does next. Jesus doesn't reprimand them or focus only on the paralyzed man. He first notices the faith of the friends. Scripture says, "*When Jesus saw their faith...*" (v. 20). It was their belief that led to their friend's healing, both physically and spiritually.

There is a powerful message of friendship and faith in this story. These men cared so much about their friend that they did whatever it took to bring him to Jesus. This kind of thing still happens today, even if it looks a little different. Sometimes, it's the strong prayers you have for your friends that make a big difference. Other times, people meet Christians, even if they don't fully believe in God yet, and they still want to be around them because something about it feels different. Many times, it is a regular invitation for our friends to join our lives or attend church.

People who don't know God yet need friends who believe because through those friendships they can start to see what real faith looks like. People who do know God need friends who believe because it is through friendships that we find healing and growth. When we invite people into our lives, they encounter God through us. This is the power of connecting others to community. It is in community that we all encounter a real God and experience real faith.

CONVERSATION:

Share a story about a time a friend did something amazing for you?

How does being part of a community, like our family or church, help us experience God and/or grow in our faith?

In the story, why do you think Jesus noticed the friends' faith before anything else? What does that say about how much our faith matters?

Who's someone in your life who might need a little extra love or encouragement right now? What's one fun or kind thing you could do for them this week?

The paralyzed man went home praising God with his friends! What's something God has done for you that makes you want to celebrate?

PRAYER:

As a family, give thanks to God for all the different ways He works in the lives of people. Ask God to help you connect to a community of believers that supports and encourages one another. Pray for opportunities for God to use the faith of your family to make a difference in the lives of those around you.