

SESSION 2 | 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:

“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 2:38

DEVOTION:

Have you ever watched someone get baptized at church and wondered, “what is that all about?” Baptism is an important step in the journey of every follower of Jesus. Acts 2:38 gives us a clear picture of why it matters. When Peter spoke to the crowd, he invited them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Becoming a Christ follower is a decision made in your heart when you understand that He died on a cross to save you from your sins. Repent means to turn around and go the other way. It is asking forgiveness for sin, and making the decision to follow Jesus. The act of baptism is a public declaration of your faith, showing that you've decided to follow Jesus.

Do you want to know a secret? The water in the baptism at church isn't special. There's no secret sauce or pixie dust. The power of baptism comes from heaven not the faucet. You could get baptized in a river, lake, pool, or ocean. It's not about the water, it's about what the water represents. Baptism is like a bridge that connects

us to God. It symbolizes the washing away of our sins and the beginning of a new life in Christ. When you're baptized, you're saying, "I belong to Jesus, and I want to follow Him."

Baptism is also a reenactment of what Jesus did for us through His death, burial, and resurrection. When you go under the water you are saying that since Jesus died and was buried for me, I am going to die to myself and make Him my Lord. When you come up out of the water, you are showing that you are receiving the gift of a new life and the Holy Spirit as your guide. Have you ever heard the term born again? We don't actually start our lives over as babies. But, through faith and the step of baptism, we start a new life with God as the King of our lives.

Baptism is just the beginning. It is the starting line, not the finish line, of our faith journey. Our faith through baptism connects us to God so that we can have a relationship with Him. Just like any relationship, it needs attention to grow. To stay connected to God means spending time with Him every day: reading the Bible, worshiping, and praying. It also means being part of a church community where you can learn more about God and serve others.

Baptism is a next step for every follower of Jesus. It's a chance to show everyone that you are committed to Jesus. It's a chance to follow Jesus' example, because he was baptized too (Matthew 3:13-17). It is also an invitation to live a life immersed in following Jesus.

CONVERSATION:

If you have been baptized, talk about your faith story. Share how you placed your faith in Jesus Christ and took the step of baptism.

How does baptism symbolize a new life in Christ, and what changes might you see in someone who follows Jesus?

Why is it important to publicly declare your faith through baptism? How can this impact your relationship with God and others?

In what ways can we celebrate baptism in our family?

If you are thinking about getting baptized, what questions do you have? How can we seek out answers as a family?

PRAYER:

As a family, give thanks to God for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's through Jesus that everyone can receive forgiveness and have a relationship with God. Ask God to work in your lives to draw you closer to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide each member of your family to a saving faith in Jesus that culminates in the step of baptism.