



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.

## **1. Opening Statement**

**Begin your conversation by asking about this statement:**

While reading the Bible, understand the literary context, the historical context, and the theological context.

This statement 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 lesson. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

## **2. Thought From the Study**

When we read or study the Bible, there is no more basic principle for interpretation than understanding the context of the passage. Context is vitally important for two main reasons. First, human language works on the basis of various types of context. In fact, we could say that words have no specific meaning apart from context. The second reason we need to study context is that God has chosen to communicate His Word to us in human language. Specifically, God has chosen particular places, times, and ways to communicate biblical truth to us in a way that the human race can understand. So, we respect God's communication when we seek to understand it in the various contexts in which He gave it.

How does understanding the historical context of a movie or book give you insight into the work's significance? What happens when you interpret something apart from its history?

## **3. Quote for Discussion**

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

"A text without a context becomes a pretext for a proof text." —D.A. Carson

## **4. Conversation Questions**

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

1. When has something been miscommunicated in our family because the words were taken out of context? How did we finally resolve the misunderstanding?
2. How often do members of our family quote Scripture out of context? What is the danger in this?
3. What are some tools our family could use to make sure we understand the context when studying certain passages of Scripture?