



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:

When reading the New Testament, pay attention to New Testament narrative, the letters, and apocalyptic literature.

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

The four Gospels together give us a full, consistent picture of Jesus, but they approach the story differently. The first three Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—follow the same general pattern in telling the story of Jesus, and a good bit of their material overlaps. One characteristic they share in common is that they relate the story of Jesus as a process of discovery on the part of the disciples and the readers of the story.

John, on the other hand, tells the story of Jesus “from heaven down.” It is clear right from the beginning of John's Gospel who Jesus is. He is the Word who created the world (John 1:3). He is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (1:29). In John we have a powerful proclamation of Jesus' identity. We get glimpses of that identity early on in the Synoptic Gospels, but the approach is different.

If you were to recommend an unbeliever read one Gospel, which one would you choose? Why?

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“The Gospels present themselves and are placed in the canon in such a way that they hold together both the OT's witness and that of the other apostolic writings. On the one hand they are the fulfillment of all the OT spoke of, while on the other they are the fountainhead of all the epistolary literature. In this way they serve the key role in all of Holy Scripture.” —Jonathan Pennington

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What are some of our family's favorite New Testament stories or verses?
2. How could we model Paul's ability to communicate in his letters to non-believers? What did he do particularly well?
3. How have the Gospels and/or Paul's letters encouraged you in your walk with Christ?