



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Find time to explore these questions as a family after each session.

Session 1

- Where do you see God's love in your own life?
- How do you know the insistent unending nature of God's love in your own life?
- How can you open yourself even more to the miracle of God's love and grace?
- What comfort is taken in knowing that in life and in death, we belong to God?

Session 2

- What is difficult about sharing God's grace? What gets in the way of sharing or gives you permission to do so?
- Is loving yourself a selfish act?
- What for you is the difference between selfishness and being a good steward of God's creation?

Session 3

- Who are the modern-day Samaritans?
- What can being a neighbor cost you or the participants?
- What frees one to be an unexpected neighbor?
- How does one balance the risks in being a neighbor with Christ's imperative to be a neighbor?

Session 4

- What are the greatest difficulties in children and parents relating to each other?
- What fears get in the way of becoming a good parent?
- Is it necessary for us to forgive our parents? Why?



THE MISTAKEN PERSPECTIVE STORY

A driver in a blue car carefully made his way up a steep, high, narrow, winding, mountain road. The driver took great care to stay in his lane because there was a steep cliff just at the edge of the road. He came to a very sharp curve in the road. The mountain blocked him from seeing around it. Suddenly, a red car flew around the blind curve in the blue car's lane and was heading straight for the blue car. At the last second the red car swerved out of the blue car's path and narrowly avoided a collision. The driver of the red car screamed, "Hog!" as she roared past. The driver in the blue car thought, "That jerk! I'm no hog. She was on *my* side of the road!" Indignantly, he sped up a little as he continued around the blind curve. Suddenly there was a loud crash. The blue car hit a hog that was standing in the middle of the road.





How Good Do You HAVE TO BE?

1. Did God ask a drunk to help him? (Genesis 9:21)
2. Was a murderer ever chosen to be the leader of God's people?
(2 Samuel 2:9; Exodus 2:11–15)
3. Was anyone ever too religious for God? (Philippians 3:4–6)
4. Did anyone ever run away from what God told him to do and still be
important to God? (Jonah 3:1)
5. Did anyone with a speech impediment ever speak for God? (Exodus 4:10)
6. Did the disciples ever go to sleep while Jesus was praying?
(Matthew 26:40–43)
7. Did God ever need someone who had been abused? (Genesis 37:18)
8. Did anyone ever think they were too old to help God? (Genesis 17:17)
9. Was anyone ever thought to be too young to help God? (Jeremiah 1:6;
1 Timothy 4:12)
10. Were any of God's people ever liars? (Genesis 26:7; 20:2; 27:19)
11. Was anyone crazy enough to preach naked for God? (Isaiah 20:2–3)
12. Did a prostitute ever help God? (Joshua 2:1; 6:17)
13. Did any of the disciples ever deny they even knew Jesus?
(Matthew 26:69–74)
14. Were any of God's people ever afraid? (Judges 6:27)



RATING THE INFLUENCERS

Place a checkmark next to the kinds of people you feel you should be around and an "X" next to those you feel you should not be around.

- ___ people of faith
- ___ youth who are heavy drinkers
- ___ bullies
- ___ criminals
- ___ musicians
- ___ people who attend church regularly
- ___ gang members
- ___ people with lots of tattoos
- ___ Christians
- ___ people who have a positive attitude
- ___ students who get good grades
- ___ athletes
- ___ siblings
- ___ atheists
- ___ my friends' parents
- ___ my best friend





SCENARIOS

RELATIONSHIP SCENARIO 1

Everyone loves Mary's parents. Many of her friends have told Mary that they wish her parents were their parents. What Mary doesn't tell them is that her parents kind of drive her crazy because they always want to know where she is, whom she's with, and what she's doing. How can Mary honor her parents?

RELATIONSHIP SCENARIO 2

Doug's mother is mentally ill and will not take medicine that will stabilize her wild mood swings. His mother is not all that likeable. She often yells at Doug's brother and father. His father doesn't know how to make the situation better and doesn't really try to help. Doug is embarrassed by his family. He wants to escape from the house as soon after high school as possible. How can Doug honor his parents?

RELATIONSHIP SCENARIO 3

Yvette's parents provide her with a cell phone, car, nice clothes, and spending money. They like her friends and her boyfriend. They are nice to her and she is nice to them. They go to church together on Sundays and have dinner together several nights a week. Yvette makes good grades and plans to go to college in a nearby city. How can Yvette honor her parents?

RELATIONSHIP SCENARIO 4

Polly's father is drunk again. He wants Polly to drive him to the store for more to drink. Polly is 14 years old. She tells him she feels uncomfortable trying to drive him to the store. He yells at her and tells her she must do what he tells her since he is her father. What is the best thing for Polly to do? How can she honor her father?



MY PARENTS WISH I WOULD . . .

Consider the Scripture and the Study Catechism questions and answers 104–106.
Indicate with a checkmark your responses to the sentences below.



My parents wish I would

I want to

—	listen without interrupting.	—
—	respond rather than react.	—
—	do something because they asked me to do it.	—
—	be kind to them.	—
—	not call them names.	—
—	follow their wishes even if I would prefer not to.	—
—	tell them the truth.	—
—	forgive them when they mess up.	—
—	care for them when they're old or sick.	—
—	show gratitude for what they have given me and are giving me.	—
—	communicate with them when my plans change.	—
—	respect their concern for my safety.	—
—	respect their need to know where I am and that I'm safe.	—
—	respect their need to want me to be safe.	—

