

# SESSION 8 FAMILY GUIDE

## WHY SHOULD I CARE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

**The Bible leads us to walk in a manner pleasing to God.** The Bible helps us renew our minds so that we are able to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. Because God changes our hearts when we trust in Him, we no longer want to live as the world lives. Rather, we want our lives to reflect a holy God whose grace has saved us from our sins. The Bible helps us to grow in relationship with God, renew our minds, and become more like Jesus through sanctification.

**Key Verse:** *Matthew 4:4*

**Key Passage:** *Ephesians 4:17-32*

## STUDY

How does the Bible grow our relationship with God?

- God gave us the Bible to establish and grow our relationship with Him. Paul gave the church at Ephesus a contrast between unbelieving Gentiles and Christians. The Gentiles' minds were darkened by sin and alienated from God. In other words, because of their unbelief, they did not have a relationship with God. They were still separated from Him because of their sin. On the other hand, Paul said that those who are in relationship with God came to faith because they were taught in the truth of Jesus—from God's Word!

How does the Bible renew our minds?

- To be renewed is to have a total transformation of the whole person. The only way to be renewed in how we think is to continually look to Jesus. After all, Jesus is the image we are being made into. (See Rom. 8:29.) Where do we go to know Jesus more and more? Our Bible! It is the truth of God's Word that renews our minds. As we read God's Word, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to help us look more like Jesus. (See 2 Cor. 3:18.)

What does the new self look like?

- God is working in us to transform us more into the image of Jesus. We call this process sanctification. The more we look to Jesus by studying God's Word, the more God changes us to look like Jesus. The process of sanctification is not always easy. While God does the work, we must be obedient to renew our minds. As we abide in Jesus, our lives will bear fruit that shows our faith is genuine. God will be faithful to finish the good work He began in us. (See Phil. 1:6.)

## DISCUSS

- How do I study the Bible in order to renew my mind?
- How does grace work when I fail to live up to God's standard of holiness?
- Why does it matter that my life is set apart by holiness?

## PRAY

Ask your preteen to share any concerns or prayer requests. Thank God for the gift of His Word and the grace of Jesus that covers all our sin. Pray for God to renew your minds and continue to sanctify you in His truth. Ask God to help you walk in holiness, reflecting His glory to the world.

## BIBLE READING PLAN

Our hearts should desire to read God's Word in order to know God more and grow more into the image of Jesus. Perhaps as a family you could develop your own Bible reading plan. You could choose to read through a book of the Bible in a month or read through the whole Bible in one year. Whatever option you choose, reading God's Word should be a priority for every believer.