



SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: *Life is a journey. From birth, to childhood, to adolescence, all the way to our twilight years, we're never really static - we're always growing. In the same way, Christianity is a lifelong progression, as we grow to become more like God, and know Him better. Growth is God's expectation for all of us, and it happens best in the context of relationships.*

2. BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 [NLT]

"Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger."

Paul is addressing the spiritual maturity of the Corinthian church. Regardless of our age, we're all spiritual infants when we join God's family - but He doesn't expect us to stay that way.

Romans 12:2 [ESV] *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*



3. DISCUSSION

How do we renew our minds? By being disciplined - learning and applying God's ways of thinking. This is a lifelong process that happens best in relationships with other Christians.

Q: Which individuals in your life have had the biggest impact on your spiritual growth? Is your relationship with them close, or distant?

Q: Outside of pastors, authors, and public speakers, who are the spiritually mature people you look to for inspiration and guidance? If you don't have anyone like that, how might you go about building a relationship with someone?

Q: Who are the people in your life that are less experienced in their relationship with God than you are? Are you actively building them up in their faith? If not, how might you start helping them to grow?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

God's will for us all is to be part of this process. Never stop learning from others. Never stop teaching and helping others. Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for the growth-inspiring relationships in your life. Ask Him to help you strengthen those connections, so more and more people can become more like Him.



STAND UP FOR OTHERS

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

1. POWER VERSE: John 15:13 *“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

“I Will Stand Up For Others – No Matter What The Cost!”

This week we continued our series, “Never Too Young.” In this week’s lesson, the children learned a powerful message from the life of Esther about how to stand up for those who are in need!



2. BIBLE VERSE:

Read Esther 4:7-8, 15-16

“Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He told him about the exact amount of money Haman had promised to add to the royal treasures. He said Haman wanted it to be used to pay some men to destroy the Jews... It commanded people to wipe out the Jews... Mordecai told Hathak to show the order to Esther. He wanted Hathak to explain it to her. Mordecai told him to tell her to go and beg the king for mercy. Mordecai wanted her to make an appeal to the king for her people. 15 Then Esther sent a reply to Mordecai. ‘...Then I’ll go to the king. I’ll do it even though it’s against the law. And if I have to die, I’ll die.’”

Q. Do you remember who this week’s Bible story was about?



Q. What did Esther do for her people?

Q. Why was this so important?

3. ACTIVITY:

Discuss with your children why what Esther did was so important and how difficult it must have been to stand up for others. Share a time in your life where you had to stand up for someone or something. This can help your children identify with this story.

Q. What do you think it means to “stand up for others?”

Q. How does this make God feel when we “stand up for others?”

It’s important that we stand up for others and what is right. There may be people at your school who are being bullying, and you could be the person to stop them. There may be a person who needs new friends, and you could be that new friend for them. Or, maybe God wants you to help those less fortunate than you like the homeless or poor. It’s important that when you see other people in need, you respond and help them.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Discuss with your children ways they can “Stand up for others.” As a family, make a plan to give back to those in need. Pray together that God will use your family to make a difference in this world!