



AN ALL-ACCESS PASS

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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MARCH 11, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: It stinks to be out of the loop. We all have a craving to belong and to be in the know, but before salvation, we were all on the outside looking in spiritually. That's one of the most exciting things about making Jesus Lord.

We're not only saved from hell, we're now insiders, with unprecedented access to the God of the universe!

2. DISCUSSION

Now that you're an insider, come boldly to God's throne.

Ephesians 3:12 [NLT]

"Because of Christ and our faith in him (now that we're insiders), we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence."

Q. Take a minute to think about the words you use when you pray. When you talk to God, do you speak as an insider - a child with full access and expectation for a response - or as an outsider hoping for a crumb to fall off of God's table?

Q. How would the prayer of an insider sound different from that of an outsider?



Q. How would the expectations and faith of an insider differ from those of an outsider?

3. CHALLENGE

Now that you're an insider, invite other people in.

Ephesians 3:6-7 [NLT] *"And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News."*

Q. What's the name of a person you interact with who's living without the benefits of an all-access pass to God?

Q. Take a minute and practice how you might share your experience with them: Why did you make the decision to accept Jesus as Lord? What are your favorite benefits, now that you're an insider? How could these benefits make this person's life better?

Now that you've thought through it - look for a God-opportunity, and invite them to be an insider like you!



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for inviting you into His family and filling your life with the benefits of being an insider. Ask Him (boldly!) for the power and opportunity to invite others to new life.



“ANGER IS MURDER!”

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1. POWER VERSE: **Matthew 5:21,22** *“You have heard that... ‘If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!”*

Watts Up: “Don’t Hold On To Grudges - Make Things Right!”

This week, we continue the series called, “Ouch!” This week, we learn that when we hold on to grudges and anger, it will do nothing more than hurt us. Instead of allowing anger to make us bitter, we must forgive others, just like God has forgiven us.

2. BIBLE VERSE:

Genesis 37-43 *“So Joseph went to look for his brothers. He found them near Dothan. But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. ‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they said to one another. ‘Come. Let’s kill him. Let’s throw him into one of these empty wells. Let’s say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we’ll see whether his dreams will come true.’ The traders from Midian came by. Joseph’s brothers pulled him up out of the well. They sold him to the Ishmaelite traders for eight ounces of silver. But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt... captain of the palace guard... he became very angry. So he put Joseph in prison. It was the place where the king’s prisoners were kept... the Lord was with Joseph. He gave Joseph success in everything he did. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “God has made all this known to you. No one is as wise and understanding as you are. You will be in charge of my palace. All my people must obey your*

orders. People from all over the world came to Egypt. They came to buy grain from Joseph. So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain there. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn’t recognize him. Joseph looked around... He continued, “May God be gracious to you, my son.”



3. DISCUSSION:

Q. What happened to Joseph? Did he have the right to be angry? When he was second in command of Egypt, who came to see him? Did they know it was Joseph? How did Joseph respond?

Anger is an emotion we all deal with. However, Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount, “Anger is murder!” So what does that mean? Does that mean if you are angry, you are a murderer? Well, not exactly. What Jesus is saying is that when you hold onto your anger and allow it to turn into a grudge, THAT is the sin! Allowing your anger to control you can lead to a lot of heartache.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Have you ever held onto your anger? What do you think Jesus wants us to do with our anger? Pray for your child if they have been holding bad feelings and unforgiveness in their hearts toward others. Encourage them that they may need to go to the person this week and tell them that they are forgiven.