



LENSES: PART 1

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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MAY 6, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Everybody looks at life through a lens - a set of preconceptions about what's valuable, what motivates actions, what is versus what should be. That lens makes a huge difference in our lives - especially when it comes to how we view God.

2. DISCUSSION:

Luke 11:34-35 [NLT]

"When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness."

The lens we view life through can bring God's truth... or it can fool us into believing a lie. Too many people in our world have the wrong outlook on life because their lens is filtering things in a negative way.



Q. What sorts of factors might affect the way someone looks at life? (i.e. upbringing, hurts & failures, etc.)

Q. What factors in your past (or present) do you think have the most influence on the way you look at life? that impact your quality of life?

What other areas in your life might improve?

3. CHALLENGE:

Many people who heard Jesus' teaching couldn't accept Him as the Messiah (the promised savior) because their filters were set on a military leader who would liberate the Jews from Roman occupancy. As a result, they were blind to the truth that could save them. In the same way, people today have skewed filters for what kind of savior Jesus is supposed to be. If we want to be able to hear and accept the truth, we need to have the right lens. The one that comes from God's source of truth- the Bible.



Q. What are some preconceptions people have about Jesus that might not be accurate?

Q. How do you think those misconceptions might keep someone from being saved or living a healthy spiritual life?

Q. What can you do to make sure your own lens is allowing you to see Jesus accurately?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for allowing you to understand and accept the good news of Jesus, our Messiah. Ask the Holy Spirit to continually shape your lens by the truth of the Bible, so you can see life the way that He wants you to see it.



“LESSONS FROM ESTHER”

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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MAY 6, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: John 14:15 *“If you love me, obey my commandments.”*

What’s Up: “I’ll Trust God & I Will Obey!”

This week, we continue our series called, “You Only Live Once” or “YOLO.”

We’re learning some important lessons about making our lives count!

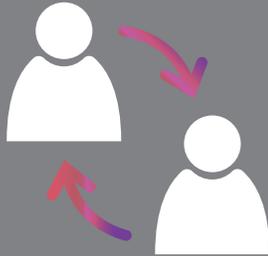
Since we only live once, we need to make sure we do our very best to honor God with our life and remain faithful to Him.

2. DISCUSSION:

Q. What do you think the word “trust” means?

Q. Have you ever been in a situation where it was hard to trust someone?

Q. Have you ever been in a situation where it was hard to trust God?



This week we learned about Esther. She found herself in a pretty tough situation. When Mordecai told her of Haman’s plan to destroy the Jews, she could have thought only about herself and played it safe. She could have ignored Mordecai’s request and never told the King how evil Haman was. However, Esther made the tough choice to trust God and obey Him.

3. CHALLENGE:

Queen Esther spoke up and, as a result, the Jews were saved. She was brought into the kingdom for that special moment, & she didn’t waste it.



Q. In the situation you described earlier, did you end up trusting God?

Q. What did you do? How did it turn out?

Q. What can we do to strengthen our ability to trust God?

Q. What can we do to make sure we’re ready and able to “seize our moment” when the time comes?

If we will trust God, obey Him, and seize our moment - God will bless us big-time!



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children to trust God and look for their “moment.” Pray for them if they are struggling to obey God’s commands. Remind them that blessing follows obedience. God is good. We can trust Him.