



CONNECT TO GOD

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JULY 1, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Jesus didn't come to the earth, live as a human for 33 years, and die a brutal death so we could experience a "pretty good" life - He came so we could experience it abundantly! God wants the best for us, and that starts when we connect to our Creator.

2. DISCUSSION:

John 1:4 [ESV]

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

From the very beginning, the very source of life has been a connection between God and human-kind. That divine connection was lost when sin entered the world, but a loving God has made a way for us to regain purpose and vitality in every part of life - even though our physical bodies are still decaying under the curse of sin.

Q . When are the times you feel the most "connected" to God? When are the times you feel least "connected?"

Q . Do you think God's plan is for you to experience his light in some parts of life, or in all?

Q . If God's light is relegated to a few areas in your life, who do you think put up the boundaries - you or Him?

3. CHALLENGE:

John 14:16-17 [ESV] *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."*

More than just being near God, He sent His Holy Spirit so He could be in us, bringing His perspective and growing His character from the inside out.



Q . What are some ways that the Holy Spirit influences your life?

Q . What's one area of your life that would improve if the Holy Spirit became more involved in it?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for reaching out to reconnect with you. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring His perspective and character into more areas of your lives.



BREAKING FREE!

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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JULY 1, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."

What's Up: "I Know God Can Set Me FREE!"

This week, we continue our series called, "Prison Break." In this week's lesson, we learn that God is able to set us free from any prison that we are in.

Even when it seems like God has forgotten us, He will always come through - right on time!

2. DISCUSSION:

Acts 12 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was

standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed."



Q. Did the religious leaders like that Peter was preaching and teaching about Jesus? What did they do to Peter?

Q. What happened while Peter was sleeping? What did the angel help Peter do?

Q. Where did Peter go when he got out of prison?

3. CHALLENGE:

Prisons come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Sometimes they are prisons of circumstances that are forced on us. Other times, they are prisons of our own making. No matter what kind of prison we find ourselves in, we can rest assured that God is able to set us free! All we must do is call on God, and He will provide a way of escape. He may not come in the exact way or time that we want, but God will always come through.

Q. Has there ever been a time you felt like you were in a "prison"?

Did you rely on God to set you free?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children if they are going through a "prison" in their life. Pray that they will have God's peace. Pray that they will trust God's timing. Pray that God will set them FREE from their prison, today. Pray that they will trust in God in future "prisons" they go through.