



**Family
Conversation
Guide**

12.18.2022

December Theme:
A Thrill of Hope!

Monthly Memory Verse:

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. "

- **Romans 12:12** (ESV)

Monthly Challenge Verse:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." - **Hebrews 11:1** (ESV)

December 18th | Life Application:
Jesus came to set us free from false Idols.

Parents: After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids.

1. Have each family member describe themselves, who they are. To make it easier, have them **list five things that would describe them**. Be sure they know this is not about how they look but who they are as a person. Don't correct them or add anything- we will have time for your input later!
2. During the sermon, Michael Chadwick mentioned five things that people could use to describe themselves.
 - Relationships (child of____, friends with____, spouse of____, etc.)
 - Words from others (things others have said about you, good or bad)
 - Genetics (the family you are from, the history of family members, good and bad, and the talents or giftedness passed down from generation to generation)
 - Our experiences (all the things we have done and that others have done to us or with us, the places we have been, the good and bad things that have happened to us)
 - Comparisons (comparing ourselves to others- do we measure up?)
3. Michael Chadwick also talked about false idols- things that we love that become more important than our relationship with God. **Can you name some things that could be false idols?** (Toys, TV or internet, sports, people we admire, etc.)
4. **Read Genesis 1:26-27:**
"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"
In whose image are we made? (In God's image.) **What did God give us the authority to do?** (To have dominion over everything on the earth.)
5. **Read Matthew 28:16-20:**
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

6. **What authority did Jesus give us?** *(He had all authority in heaven and on earth- He gave us the authority to go and teach people about Him!)* **How do we know we can do that?** *(Because He will be with us forever.)*
7. **God has a plan for you.** He has some special things for you to do in this world He created. And, He created you just the way you are so that you could serve Him and glorify Him!
8. **How does knowing this help us to turn away from false idols, things that we are tempted to love more than God?**

Family Challenge:

Read Proverbs 3:5,6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

1. Now, have each person take turns sitting on a chair with other family members circled around them. Set a timer for 5 minutes, and tell the person sitting in the chair that they need to listen and not speak. Play Christmas music softly in the background if you are able. During the 5 minutes, have family members take turns saying the special and unique things they see in this person they love. Make sure everyone has a turn to speak, and list one thing before the next person speaks. Continue until the five minutes is up, then have another family member sit in the middle and give words of affirmation to them. Every family member should have a turn hearing words of affirmation.
2. Have a large index card for each person, with their name written on it. Ask everyone to sit at a table and put the cards in the middle of the table. Have family members write words of affirmation on each person's card, saying the things they see in them that are special and uniquely the way God created them. Pass the cards around until everyone has had a chance to write on every person's card. Then, read each card out loud.

Prayer:

Jesus, Thank You for coming to the earth as a baby to save us. Thank You for saving us from turning to false idols. We know that God created the things of this world to enjoy, but He has a special plan for us that is more important than any of these things. We know that God created us to do special things for Him, and we know You are always with us. We love You! Amen