



APRIL 2010

## LIFE FOCUS PARENT NEWSLETTER

### THIS MONTH IN BIBLE STUDY: WHAT'S UP WITH MINISTRY?

#### SESSION 1: RISE UP!

Why does the resurrection of Jesus matter?

#### SESSION 2: LOOK UP!

What do I need if I want to serve God?

#### SESSION 3: STAND UP!

Why should I serve God?

#### SESSION 4: BACK IT UP!

It's my money. Why should I give it?

Students often hear the challenge to serve God, but what does that mean? Service is an expected part of the Christian life, but many students need some guidance in knowing how to live out a life of service. This study will provide a foundation of understanding the basics of ministry—the motivation and general qualities all servants and ministers need—and the role our finances play in ministry. As these four basics become foundational in students' lives, they can move more confidently into specific areas of service.

#### What parents can do:

- Use the suggestions on the other side of this newsletter to engage your teenager in a discussion about what he or she has learned each week.
- Consider reading and discussing *Voices of the Faithful* by Beth Moore and Friends, and Kim Davis's *My Life, His Mission* with your teenager.
- Look for opportunities in your church or community where you and your teenager can plug into a service project together.
- Listen to [www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL](http://www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL) for insights into this month's study.

### MUSIC REVIEW: ANDREW PETERSON

Singer/songwriter/storyteller Andrew Peterson has recently signed on with Nashville-based Centricity Music for the *Resurrection Letters, Volume 11* release. His career accomplishments include a Top 10 radio hit and a Dove Award nomination. The songs on the album were mostly connected to the resurrection theme with lyrics about death and rebirth, and the way that picture pervades all of creation. Co-producers Andy Gullahorn and Ben Shive accompanied Peterson in the recording studios, along with a remarkable cast of other musicians attracted to Peterson's projects.

"One of the most exciting things that we were able to do was the choir," Peterson says. "Ben Shive and I had the idea to record a choir for the end of the song 'The Good Confession.' We gathered about 40 folks who had never heard this song, and recorded them singing, 'I believe He is the Christ, Son of the Living God.' It was beautiful. Hearing that choir enter at the end of the song is my favorite moment on the record." Peterson's songs have long centered on family and faith, and *Resurrection Letters, Volume 11* offers no exception. These songs are pictures that God uses to remind us that we are called to a deep and lasting relationship with Him.

To learn more about Andrew Peterson, visit <http://andrew-peterson.com>.

## FAMILY BIBLE TIME

Sunday School affirms the home as the center of biblical guidance. Family Bible Time is a strategy for you, as a parent, to discuss with your teenager—and the whole family—the biblical truths and principles discovered in their small group Bible study.

The class your teenager participates in uses a Bible study curriculum called *Life Focus*. You may participate in an adult Bible study that uses one of the adult counterparts in Bible Studies for Life (*Life Truths, Life Values, Life Ventures, Life Lessons, or Life Words*). Because you are studying the same passage, you and your teenager can both contribute to a family conversation about how God's Word applies to your lives as individuals and as a family.

### APRIL 4: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4,12-19,54B-58

Parents, your teenager's Bible study leader may be presenting the plan of salvation in class. If your teen hasn't accepted Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, he or she may approach you with questions. Be prepared to answer their questions leading them to a decision for Christ. If during Bible study they accepted Christ as their Savior, rejoice with them, make it a special time for them, and begin planning for their baptism. Explain what Jesus' victory over death means to you.

To open a discussion about Jesus' resurrection, try bouncing some of these questions around at the dinner table, as you're driving your kids to school or an activity, or while shopping together. Ask: **How would Christianity be different if there was no resurrection story?** Ask: **How would the world be different if Jesus had never been born?** Point out that Christ's resurrection is essential to the Christian faith. Talk with your family about ways you can each live daily in light of the reality of Christ's resurrection. Ask: **What difference does it make whether or not you believe the resurrection of Jesus actually happened? How would you explain your answer to someone who wasn't a follower of Jesus?**

### APRIL 11: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17; 3:4-5,18; 4:1-2,5-6,16-18

Do you think eternal matters are more significant than present matters? Lead a family discussion about ways your lives show what is significant. Begin by listing all of your family activities with an eternal focus and all of your family activities with a present focus. Lead your family to think about what credentials it takes to serve Christ. Explain that by God's grace He makes us adequate and gives us the privilege of participating in His ministry. Point out that serving Christ requires that we focus on what God can do through us, not on what we can do by ourselves. Is your family's focus on Christ? Paul focused his message on Christ. Discuss how a heart changed by the Spirit of God is reflected in a believer's life focus. Ask: **Do you think of every believer as a minister of the gospel of Christ?** Challenge each family member to stay focused on Jesus Christ. Ask: **Will focusing on Jesus cause us to be more concerned with eternal matters or present matters?**

### APRIL 18: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9-21

Prepare a large poster with two columns. Ask family members to list activities they do and the motivations behind the activities. (*For example, dad goes to work to make money to pay bills; mom fixes dinner so family will not be hungry; children move bikes to keep them safe from theft.*) Lead a discussion about motivation. Turn attention to the motivation for pleasing God. Ask and discuss: **What should our motivation be for serving Christ?** As a family, list how family members, individually and as a group, can be effective servants of Christ. Decide on two activities with an eternal focus that the family can do together this week. Challenge each family member to decide on an activity to do individually that has an eternal focus.

### APRIL 25: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:8-15; 9:6-11

How many times do you plan to do something good for somebody but never seem to get around to it? Good intentions are good, but it is important to follow through with them before anyone can benefit. Do you and the members of your family support Christ's ministry financially through the church? Be an example to your family by cheerfully demonstrating your commitment to giving your tithe, and even giving sacrificially. Look for ways your family can give to meet the needs of those less fortunate. Ask your teen: **Is it hard for you to give 10% of the money from your allowance or job?** Ask: **What do you think God expects?**

