

Stamp

NOVEMBER 2010

LIFE FOCUS PARENT NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH IN BIBLE STUDY: THE CASE FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

SESSION 1: THE CLAIM: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS BETTER

Why is the Christian life better than... anything else?

SESSION 2: THE CONTRAST: LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Does anything really last forever?

SESSION 3: THE COMMITMENT: A LIFE TOGETHER

Why be involved in a church?

SESSION 4: THE CHALLENGE: A LIFE WORTH SHARING

Why should I care? Isn't religion a private matter?

This study makes the case that life lived in relationship to Jesus Christ, focused on eternal values, and connected to a church is the best way to live. It concludes by making the case that Christians have the right and responsibility to share the gospel with all people everywhere.

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.
- Look for opportunities where you and your teenager can be involved in the church together. It could be as involved as a mission opportunity that allows you to minister together, or as simple as sitting together in the worship services.
- Join your teen in a Bible study of *Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader, Student Edition*. This study includes a gifts survey and relational survey that will help you identify how you and your teen's gifts for service fit into the body of the church.
- Listen to www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL for insights into this month's study.

MUSIC REVIEW:

Leeland is a Christian rock band from Baytown, Texas. Leeland Mooring began writing songs at the age of 11. The band was formed in 2004, and eventually signed with record label Essential Records. In August 2006, Leeland debuted their first album, *Sound of Melodies*, nominated for "Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album." In 2007, the band received five GMA Dove Award nominations. Leeland's second album, *Opposite Way*, was released in 2008. Mooring said that the album "is primarily a call to our generation to passionately walk the 'opposite way' from the world; that it's OK to live the Christian life and to be on fire for God, even if it makes us look different." Leeland's albums have received Dove and Grammy nominations. "God has caused a total shift in our thinking and the way we approach our ministry," says keyboardist Jack Mooring. "He's really been opening our vision to all the hurting people, especially the poor, around the world and making it clear we should help by being a part of spreading His kingdom. We don't want to sing another song if we're not taking care of the poor. If we're not being the hands and feet of Jesus, we might as well just stop making records and go home." Leeland's most recent album, *Love Is on the Move*, was written in response to God calling them to service. Jack Mooring explains, "America's a rich nation, but we're spiritually poor. We want to see God bring a personal revival in the hearts of Americans and transform our nation." Visit <http://leelandonline.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. This last unit in this three-month study of apologetics looks at topics that might be considered more personal, affecting how we live. By looking at how we live our lives leads us and our teens to own the faith that has been discovered in Christ and to defend it before others.

NOVEMBER 7: JOHN 14:15-18,27-31A; 15:11-16

Go online to find the lyrics to the song “Holy Spirit Have Your Way” by Leeland. If you have the song, play it for your teen. Lead a discussion of the lyrics and what is meant by “more of You, less of me.” Point out that Jesus promised His peace and presence through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Ask: **When you hear a Miss America contestant say that she wants “world peace,” what do you think she means?** Discuss what world peace would actually look like. If possible, list on a sheet of paper the things that would be different with world peace. Ask: **Is world peace possible without Jesus?**

NOVEMBER 14: LUKE 12:13-21; PHILIPPIANS 1:21-26

Spend a few minutes with your teen walking around together in your home pointing out the possessions your family owns. As you point to different objects, including the outside walls of your house, ask: **Do you think this will last forever?** Turn the conversation by asking: **When you go to a friend’s house that is nicer than ours, or when you watch shows that portray rich lifestyles, how does it make you feel?** After discussing their answers ask: **What are some things you have that money can’t buy?** Point out that we get so absorbed with things that do not last, but that a life lived for Christ lasts forever. Spend a few minutes in silent prayer after you challenge family members to evaluate their desires and priorities in light of eternity. Close the prayer thanking God for His blessings and with a family commitment to be more eternity minded.

NOVEMBER 21: ACTS 2:41-47; HEBREWS 10:23-25

The early church experienced community and the outgrowth of the power of God. God added to their number daily. The writer of Hebrew connects holding onto our faith in Christ to our commitment to the body of Christ. Share with your teen that we should be faithful because Christ is faithful and be concerned about one another because Christ is concerned about the church. If you choose to ask your teen the following difficult questions, be prepared to sincerely listen and not comment in a negative way. If there are some issues, discuss them allowing your teen to help you find solutions that bring glory to God.

Ask:

- What do you think about our church?
- Do you enjoy being a part of this worshiping community?
- What are you learning from the youth pastor and leadership?
- Would you go to church if we didn’t make or expect you to go?
- Would you go to church someplace else if you could?

NOVEMBER 28: ROMANS 1:14-17; 9:1-3; 10:1,14-15; 15:17-20

Discuss the privilege and responsibility believers have to share the desperately needed message of Christ. Allow your teen and other family members to tell about a time when they shared their faith with someone else. Ask: **How often do you use your Facebook status to talk about good things that have happened to you?** Discuss some of the comments friends might make when they reply to your good news. Ask: **So, why is it so much harder to talk about Jesus, the best thing that’s ever happened to you?** If you have a Facebook page or if you twitter, spend a couple of minutes posting a message about what Jesus means to you. Challenge your teen to post a similar message via Facebook or twitter.

