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OCTOBER 2010

## LIFE FOCUS PARENT NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH IN BIBLE STUDY: CATCH PHRASES

### SESSION 1: THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

Why is sin such a big deal to God?

### SESSION 2: SEEING OURSELVES THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES

I'm a good person. Isn't that enough?

### SESSION 3: SEEING IS BELIEVING

What's so different about Jesus?

### SESSION 4: ONE OF A KIND

Why should I give Jesus a second thought?

### SESSION 5: KEEPING THE FAITH

What is faith?

In a world with so many religions, why Jesus? The emphasis for this study is on who Jesus is and why we so desperately need Him. For us to know God and have a relationship with Him, we must know Jesus. This study does continue the apologetics emphasis begun in the previous unit, so there is a continuing element of making your faith known. Therefore, this unit leads students to know Jesus personally, and it can also challenge them to share that knowledge of Christ with others.

#### 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.
- Review what the term *apologetics* means.
- Listen to [www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL](http://www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL) for insights into this month's study.

#### MUSIC REVIEW:

According to the Hillsong United Web site, Hillsong United seeks to give voice to this generation. Birthed and anchored in the youth movement of Hillsong Church, United is about seeing a generation encounter God in a way that changes us from the inside out so that together we can change our world. "One of the strengths of our Church is the way the youth are embraced and encouraged to be a part of all that is happening," says Joel Houston, Creative Director. "It's what makes United distinctive. We're not just a band. The very nature of who we are and what we do is inclusive. It's a discipling model. Hillsong United has had an amazing opportunity to take what is happening 'at home' to others. They have worshipped in churches, stadiums, and open fields in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, and through powerful praise and passionate worship, they have seen literally tens of thousands of people connect with Jesus." Joel continues, "We're just getting started. There are a lot of people who need to know Jesus. If our worship is just great youth meetings, nice songs, lots of jumping around and a few CDs, then we're missing it. Our vertical expression must have a horizontal effect. We'll continue to worship, praise and honor God with heart, soul, mind, and strength the best we know how. The fruit must be a generation who are totally committed to reaching the lost and helping those who need help, locally and globally."

Visit <http://www.hillsongunited.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.

This month you and your family will be examining why people need a savior, why Jesus is the Savior they need, and how they need to respond to Him.

### OCTOBER 3: GENESIS 3:1-6,16-19,24; ROMANS 5:12-14

Point out that everyone has rebelled against God and must deal with the consequences. Put 14 quarters in a jar and place it on the kitchen table. Allow students to choose a specific area of sin that they desire to work on (cursing or sarcasm, for example). Choose one yourself too. If you can go through a day without stumbling in that area, take a quarter out. If you fall in that area, put a quarter back in. When the jar is empty, celebrate!

### OCTOBER 10: ISAIAH 5:20-23; 6:1-5; ROMANS 3:21-26

Ask your teen what he or she believes is the greatest evil in the world. Teens may answer with such things as terrorism, AIDS, or hunger. Bring the conversation closer to home by asking what the greatest problem is in his or her school. Answers may include drinking, sex, bullying, or lack of respect for others. Finally, make the conversation even more personal by asking your teen, “What do you think is the greatest problem in our family?” Explain that on all three levels, the root of the problem is sin. Say: **Sin breaks our communion with God and hurts the people around us.** Point out that the presence of sin is a worldwide problem and an individual problem. Say: **The world rationalizes sin, but God’s holiness reveals our sin.** Discuss the solution to sin—to walk as Christ walked. Say: **In following Jesus we will see positive change in our own lives and the world around us.**

### OCTOBER 17: JOHN 6:66-69; 9:17,24-25,31-38; 20:27-29

Research and then explain how Jesus is different from all other religious leaders. Call on your teen to share in more abstract ways how he or she has seen God at work in the world. Help teens realize that there is more to God’s presence in the world than just having good things happen to them. Share that perhaps it is believers acting in love toward one another; seeing a friend come to church or accept Christ; helping you deal with pain or conquer sin.

### OCTOBER 24: JOHN 3:16-18; 14:6-11; 1 TIMOTHY 2:3-6

Ask your teenager: **Why should you give Jesus a second thought?** Point out that Jesus is the only Son of God; He is the only way to God; and that Jesus is the only mediator between God and us. Ask:

- What are you learning about Jesus in your Sunday School lesson or small group Bible study?
- What is the most difficult thing to believe about Jesus?
- What is the most exciting thing to believe about Jesus?

### OCTOBER 31: ROMANS 4:1-3,23-25; 10:9-13; HEBREWS 12:1-2

On a large sheet of paper write *FAITH* vertically down the left side of the paper. Challenge family members to take turns completing the acrostic. Use each letter for a phrase that describes what faith means to them. After the acrostic activity has

been completed, point out that faith is a firm belief grounded in who God is and what He says. Read aloud Hebrews 11:1. Say: **Walking in faith should be a constant way of life.** If your teenager plays organized sports, apply the truth of Hebrews 12:1-2 to their sport. If she is a runner, why is it important to have the lightest shoes? If he is a football player, why is it important to keep the jersey tucked in? How does that apply to a person’s spiritual life? Write out an index card for each person to place in his or her Bible as a reminder of faith. On the cards write “Faith is only as good as its object.” “Faith is an act of the will.” “Faith is a way of life.” Provide pens and ask your family to write a sentence on the back of their cards that will remind them to walk in faith. Point out that the supreme example and incentive of faith is Jesus, who gave evidence of His faith relationship with God by enduring the cross for us.

