

Stamps

SEPTEMBER 2010

LIFE FOCUS PARENT NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH IN BIBLE STUDY: DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SESSION 1: DEVELOPING A DEFENSIVE MIND-SET

How can I defend what I believe?

SESSION 2: DEFENDING THE RUN

How can we know there is a God?

SESSION 3: DEFENDING THE PASS

If God is loving, why did He allow this to happen to me?

SESSION 4: CREATING TURNOVERS

Just how involved is God in the world around us?

Believers need to understand what they believe and why. They also need to be ready to explain and defend their beliefs about God to those who question them. That is the purpose of apologetics. This study (and the whole quarter) will emphasize the importance of apologetics and owning one's faith. That emphasis is grounded in 1 Peter 3:15 and the call to "always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." So even though any study in the discipline of apologetics deepens people's understanding of God and helps them take ownership of their faith, we also want to help students "be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks." This study will not only help ground students in the faith, they will be able to speak confidently to others about why they believe what they believe.

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 your beliefs so you can be ready to defend your faith to your teenagers.
- Listen to www.lifeway.com/StudentBSFL for insights into this month's study.

MUSIC REVIEW: KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY

Musical performers and songwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty are best known for their modern hymns. In the church today, their hymns successfully bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary. Originally from Ireland, Keith and Kristyn have been leading the modern hymn movement over the past decade.

Keith explains that "there are two reasons why we write modern hymns: 1. To help teach the faith. What we sing affects how we think, how we feel and ultimately how we live, so it's so important that we sing the whole scope of truth the Bible has given us. 2. We try to create a more timeless musical style that every generation can sing, a style that relates to the past and the future."

"In the Church, the purpose of singing is to express the community we have as the Body of Christ," Kristyn adds. "To try to search for the melodic ideas and song structure that might bring more people in—that's what we're trying to investigate. Is there a way to bring everyone together musically?"

Stuart Townend and Keith often collaborate together on hymns. The first song they co-wrote, "In Christ Alone," successfully topped many of the song charts around the world. Keith and Stuart have co-written "Across the Lands."

Visit the Getty's Web site at www.gettymusic.com to learn more about these multitalented hymnwriters and performers.

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. Your teenager's curriculum has been using football as the theme for this unit. If possible, attend or watch a football game together. Two movies you may want to watch that relate to football are *Rudy* (rated PG) and *Facing the Giants* (rated PG).

SEPTEMBER 5: ACTS 21:40–22:10; 1 PETER 3:15-17

This study will help your student be prepared to answer and understand that the goal of apologetics is not to win an argument, but to lovingly respond to someone who asks about his or her faith. One thing that will help students share their beliefs is to find a common point of contact when witnessing to unbelievers. Encourage your teenagers to explain their beliefs by simply sharing what Christ has done in their lives. This month, read the Gospel of John with your teenager. After each chapter, ask them to share what they know from these passages:

- What did you learn about Jesus?
- Based on this chapter, what difference does Jesus make in our lives?
- What did you learn about God's love for you from this chapter?

SEPTEMBER 12: PSALM 19:1-6; ACTS 17:22-29; HEBREWS 1:1-2

Ask your teenager to describe the most amazing creation (rainbow, sunset, sunrise, etc.) that immediately brought God to his or her mind. Discuss with your student the ways you see God in the world around you and how He has spoken to you through nature and Scripture. One night this week, climb onto your roof (if possible) and star gaze for a while. Enjoy a discussion, from your teen's point of view, of how the heavens magnify the Lord.

SEPTEMBER 19: JOB 40:1-9; ROMANS 8:18-21,28-30

What is a recent news story that has made you wonder why God allows evil and suffering in the world? Read Psalm 62:11-12 together with your teenager. What is attributed to God? Ask:

- What does it mean for God's love to be faithful?
- In Romans 8:18, what does the phrase *compared to glory* mean to you?

Remind your teenager that we don't have the full picture, but should evaluate our present sufferings in light of eternity.

SEPTEMBER 26: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-5; PSALM 139:7-10; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Your teen has learned this week that David acknowledged that there was no place he could go where God was not present. Ask:

- What makes it hard to realize that God is with you all the time?
- What would make it easier?
- What can we do this week to help you recognize God's involvement in your life?

Moses reminded the children of Israel all the things that God had done for them. This reminds us that God always lovingly acts in His people's best interests. Point out how God is so involved in our lives that He became human like us to bring us to Him. Discuss times where you have seen God lovingly acting in your family's best interest.

