

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

2 Chronicles 36:11-21; Jeremiah 38:14-18,24-28

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God patiently pursues sinners, but those who harden their hearts will one day face judgment.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

The final downfall of Israel had been set in motion through the hardened heart of their ruler, which was a reflection of the hardened hearts of the people. This text tells us the true source of Zedekiah's actions: He was not acting out of a sense of national pride or noble desire for independence. Instead, he was living out the natural way of his hardened heart.

- ▶ **Have you ever witnessed someone who had hardened their heart toward the will of God? What happened?**
- ▶ **Have you ever noticed yourself taking this same path? How can you guard yourself from this in the future?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

Unbelief abuses truth through a deliberate act of deception that ends in its own self-deception. Unbelief seizes God's truth, twists it away from God's purposes and toward its own, and is therefore forced to deny the full reality of the truth it knows. –Os Guinness

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. What is hardness of heart? What are some of the ways we can identify if our family's heart is becoming hardened?**
- 2. How does our family's response to God's Word serve as an indicator to the condition of our hearts?**
- 3. What kinds of things going on in the world today cause our family to be broken hearted for others and weep over its state while we share God's message?**
- 4. What are some of the active ways our family can help each other fight against pride?**