

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

Joel 1:1-14; 2:12-14,18,25-32

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Repentance requires grieving over our sin and turning away from our sin and toward God for forgiveness.

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

Joel gave his people a strong dose of reality. The locust swarm was meant as a wake-up call for people to recognize their sin and return to the Lord. The beginning of a return to God involves proper grief over sin.

- ▶ **Does it surprise you that God sent the locusts as a warning to His own people? Where else in the Bible did He use locusts to send a message?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

Our sorrow and grief for sin must not spring merely from a fear of wrath; for if we have no other ground than that, it proceeds from self-love and not from any love to God. –George Whitefield

4. Conversation Questions

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

- 1. Discuss what you think it means to grieve over sin. What is the difference between grieving over the effects of sin and grieving over sin itself? Why are these important concepts for our family to understand?**
- 2. When it comes to repentance, why is it important for our family to realize both attitude and action go together?**
- 3. Why do we need to embrace the work and role of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives? How can our family encourage each other to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's work in our life?**
- 4. Does our family ever struggle to talk about God's judgment? What are some practical and appropriate ways our family can present the reality of God's judgment to those around us?**