

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

Ezra 4:1-7; 5:1-5; 6:13-22

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God is able to transform hearts and minds to accomplish His will.

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 reason the Jews declined their help was due to the simple reason that even though these neighbors made sacrifices to God, they didn't worship Him alone—they also worshiped the false gods in their pantheon. These returning Jews knew the history of their people all too well—how they would be drawn away from God because they participated in the idolatry of the surrounding nations. Having learned their lesson about falling into idolatry and risking God's judgment and discipline once more, the Jews decided that they alone would build the temple.

- ▶ **What are some ways you can guard your mind from idol worship? How can you make sure your worship is uninfluenced by those idols?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. Nothing can substitute for it. There simply is no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk and meat of Scripture...” —Donald Whitney

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. What kind of opposition or adversity comes against obedient Christians today? What can our family learn from the exiles' response to opposition?
2. As a family, discuss what it means to have spiritual apathy. What are some warning signs that we may be approaching spiritual apathy? How can our family guard against this?
3. How did this passage challenge our family as we face opposition in our own lives?
4. How does God's Word shape the priorities in our family? Why should we turn to His Word when fighting opposition and spiritual apathy?