

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

Esther 4

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The Lord is working His plan even when we cannot see Him.

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

In addition to her difficult family situation, Esther belonged to an immigrant family, which means she was part of a religious, racial, and cultural minority. The dominant culture in Persia was so unfriendly to Jews that Mordecai and Esther felt the need to hide their cultural identity. Esther knew what it meant to be an outsider.

► **When have you felt like an “outsider” because of your faith? How do you respond in these situations?**

3. Quote for Discussion

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

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” —Charles Spurgeon

4. Conversation Questions

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

1. As a family, discuss when God seemed distant in a difficult situation. What happened? How did the situation affect our family's relationship with God?
2. How can our family encourage one another to seek the Lord when His hand of providence is hidden from our view?
3. In what ways has our family's history made us more effective in serving Him?
4. When has our family been placed somewhere for “such a time as this”?