

ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

CONNECTION POINT: God sent Jesus because He loves people and wants them to accept Jesus as Savior.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: A key attribute of God is His great love, a love that is seen in His forgiveness. It seems unthinkable, then, that we could do something that God wouldn't forgive. Yet Jesus said plainly, "Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven" (Matt. 12:31). As we look at the context in which Jesus said this, we see the burden rests on us. God does desire to forgive!

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE**

MATTHEW 12:22-32
God Won't Forgive This Sin

PRESCHOOL



LUKE 19:28-40; JOHN 12:12-19

LIVE IT OUT: Cut a large heart from a piece of construction paper. Print on the heart *This is Jesus. Matthew 21:11.* Give your child watercolors to paint the heart. Tell the Bible story as she paints. Thank God for sending Jesus to love us.

Jesus and His disciples were walking to Jerusalem. Jesus told two disciples, "Go to the next town. There you will find a young donkey. Bring it to Me."

The disciples obeyed Jesus. They found the donkey like Jesus said they would. They brought the donkey to Jesus. The disciples spread their coats on the donkey. Jesus climbed onto the donkey's back and rode into Jerusalem.

Along the way, many people were waiting to see Jesus. When they saw Him coming, some people spread their coats on the road. Other people laid down palm branches. As Jesus passed by, the people shouted, "Hosanna."

The people shouted happy words. They were happy to see Jesus. They knew He was special and had done many miracles. They wanted to show their love for Him!

KIDS



LUKE 19:28-40; JOHN 12:12-19

LIVE IT OUT: Help your child memorize this week's Bible verse, 1 John 4:10. Encourage her to write the verse on a paper and decorate the paper. Tell her to post the verse in her room where she can refer to it often.

Jesus sent two disciples into a village to bring back a donkey. The disciples found the colt just as Jesus said.

The disciples took the colt to Jesus. They put their robes on the colt. They helped Jesus get on it.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The people spread their robes on the road in front of Him. Many people thanked God and praised Him for the great things Jesus had done.

The people shouted, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Some of the temple leaders said, "Teacher, make Your disciples be quiet!"

Jesus said that if His followers were quiet, the stones would praise Him.

Later, the disciples remembered how people had praised Him.

STUDENTS

THE POINT: God does not forgive those who reject Jesus and never seek His forgiveness.

- Where have you seen the power of Jesus at work around you?
- What convinced you that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What are some ways our culture responds to the work of Christ?
- Why do you think the works of God are often difficult to believe?
- How can we help others to see that Jesus is truly powerful?
- What are the ongoing consequences of willful and persistent unbelief in Jesus?
- How would you explain blasphemy against the Spirit and why does God refuse to forgive this sin?

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Discuss with your student any sins he or she may be struggling with. Help him or her to create an action plan to face those sins and cut them out for good.
- **COMMUNITY:** Share with your student a time when you let selfishness or pride stop you from celebrating good things. Discuss the possible outcomes of acting with a giving heart instead.
- **CULTURE:** Help your student to be prepared to share the gospel. Pray that he or she will have the courage to share with unbelieving friends.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

**JOHN 11:25-27;
20:24-29**

You'll Never Die

CONNECTION POINT: Because Jesus is alive, we can live with Him in heaven.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Everybody wants to live longer, and many scientists are convinced that science holds secrets we can unlock that will move our lifespan well beyond 120 years.¹ That would be impressive, but even with our best efforts, we'll still die. Jesus said something that is difficult for those driven solely by the natural world to accept: we can live forever. That possibility has nothing to do with science or healthy living. Eternal life is possible because Jesus died and rose again.

1. Zoe Corbyn, "Live For Ever: Scientists Say They'll Soon Extend Life 'Well Beyond 120,'" The Guardian [online], 11 January 2015

PRESCHOOL



MATTHEW 28:1-10

LIVE IT OUT: Review the Bible story with your child. Remind him that Jesus was in a garden when the women saw Him. Give your child paper and crayons. Tell her to draw some flowers on the paper. Print *Jesus Is Alive!* on the paper.

Early Sunday morning, two Marys walked sadly to the tomb. Jesus had died on a cross and had been buried there.

An earthquake shook the ground. An angel came down from heaven. He rolled back the stone that was in front of the tomb.

The women saw an angel. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He is alive!"

The women looked in the tomb and saw that it was empty. The angel told the women to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive!

The women left to find the disciples and tell them the good news. Suddenly, they saw Jesus! The women ran to Jesus and worshiped Him.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "Go and tell My disciples to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."

The women ran to tell the disciples the good news.

KIDS



GENESIS 41:37-57

LIVE IT OUT: Discuss why God sent Jesus to die on the cross. If your child is not a Christian and he is old enough, share the plan of salvation with him. If your child is a Christian, guide him to lead your family to pray, thanking God for His gift of salvation.

Soldiers arrested Jesus. Later, they put a robe on Him. They put a crown of thorns on His head.

The soldiers took Jesus to a hill and nailed Him onto a cross. Then Jesus died on that cross.

A rich man took Jesus' body and put Jesus' body in a tomb. The man rolled the stone over the door.

Three days later, some women went to the tomb. A huge earthquake shook the ground. An angel rolled back the stone.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus is not here! He has been raised from the dead like He told you." The angel told the women to tell the disciples what had happened.

As the women left, Jesus came to them. The women fell down. They worshiped Jesus. "Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "Tell the disciples to meet Me in Galilee."

STUDENTS

THE POINT: The resurrection of Jesus makes our own resurrection possible.

- What does it mean to believe in Jesus as the resurrection and the life?
- What happens if we trust in something that isn't trustworthy?
- What obstacles often hinder people from believing in Jesus?
- When doubt sets in, how can we overcome it?
- What is required in order to share in Jesus' resurrection and experience eternal life?
- When have you experienced patience and compassion from God?
- What does it mean to call Jesus "my Lord and my God"?

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Ask your student any doubts or questions he or she may have. Spend time working through the answers together and getting help when you need it.
- **COMMUNITY:** Pray with your student over any doubts he or she is facing. Continue by sharing times when you also faced doubts during difficult times.
- **CULTURE:** Many people before us have doubted, but God reveals Himself in many ways including His Word and our testimonies. How can your belief help others with their doubts and unbelief?

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BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE

MATTHEW 19:16-26

Sell Everything You Own

CONNECTION POINT: Living for Christ allows people to show God's love to others.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: We have a tendency to see wealth and prosperity as a sign of God's favor. This notion was expressed by some as early as the Book of Job, and we see it still today in preachers and televangelists who say God wants us to be financially rich. We hear a different message from Jesus Himself. Life is not about financial abundance and prosperity. Blessing from God is tied to a heart of obedience, not a financial portfolio.

PRESCHOOL



JOHN 21:1-19

LIVE IT OUT: Put some plastic fish in a tub of water. Give your child an aquarium net to catch the fish. Comment that Jesus helped His friends to catch some fish. Thank God for His gift of Jesus.

Peter, John, and some friends fished all night. They caught no fish.

When the sun rose, they saw a man standing on the shore. He asked, "Did you catch any fish?"

When they said no, He told them to put their oars over the right side of the boat. The men threw the net into the water. When they tried to lift the net, it was full of fish! There were 153 fish.

John said, "That is Jesus!" Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. The other men brought the fish and boat to shore.

When the men reached land, they saw fish cooking on a fire. Jesus said, "Come and have breakfast with Me."

The men were happy to see Jesus.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" Peter answered yes each time. Jesus told Peter to love others and tell them about Jesus.

KIDS



JOHN 20:19-31

LIVE IT OUT: Review the Bible story of Thomas with your child. Down the center of a piece of paper print *MIRACLE*. Remind your child that Jesus miraculously appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. Challenge your child to list a miracle for every letter of the word.

The disciples met in a locked room. They were afraid. They thought the same people who killed Jesus might come for them.

Suddenly, Jesus was in the locked room with them! Jesus showed them His hands and His side. They knew this was Jesus!

Jesus said, "God sent Me to you. I am sending you to others."

Thomas was not with the group; he did not see Jesus. He did not believe they had seen Jesus. Thomas said, "If I don't see nail marks in His hands and feel His side, I will not believe it is Jesus."

Later, Thomas was with the disciples in the locked room. Suddenly, Jesus was in the room. He told Thomas to feel of His hands and His side. He said, "Be a believer."

Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "You believed because you could see. Blessed are those who believe without seeing."

STUDENTS

THE POINT: We must choose Jesus or worldly wealth, because we can't live for both.

- How would you describe God's standard for inheriting eternal life?
- Why is keeping commands not enough to receive eternal life?
- What possessions do you have trouble giving up for the sake of following Jesus?
- Why is a willingness to surrender everything necessary to follow Jesus?
- In what ways can wealth and possessions get in the way of following Jesus?
- What does this passage teach us about the gospel?
- How can we own possessions without possessions owning us?

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Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** We can never be good enough to earn God's favor, but sometimes we're tempted to try. Discuss with your student the temptation to place our salvation on following the rules.
- **COMMUNITY:** Challenge your student to memorize Matthew 25:40 this week. Spend time as a family discussing ways you can help a family in need from your church family.
- **CULTURE:** Ask your student what story is told through the possessions he or she prizes most. How can you better tell your friends and neighbors of the value found in Jesus Christ?

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CONNECTION POINT: Praying for people is a way to show God's love for them.

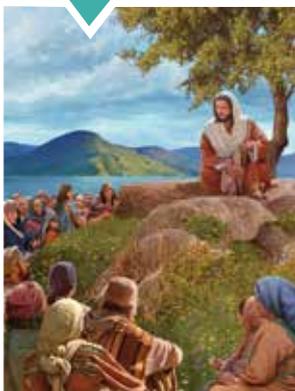
THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Culture and politics are becoming increasingly polarized. In many areas of life, we've developed an "us v. them" mindset. How can I love—much less like—someone who is opposed to me? Yet that is the very thing we're called to do: love those who hate us. For Jesus, the call to love our enemies wasn't an empty platitude. He lived this. He loved us when we were His enemies.

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE**

LUKE 6:27-36

Love Your Enemies

PRESCHOOL



MATTHEW 5:1-2; 6:5-13

LIVE IT OUT: Help your child learn to pray by modeling prayer for her, like Jesus did with His disciples. Pray from your heart, not rote prayers. Your child will begin to understand that prayer is talking to God.

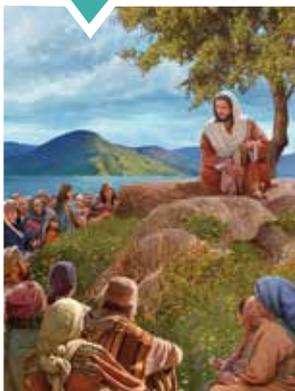
Jesus sat on the side of a mountain. He spoke to His disciples and other people. He was telling them about God and the things God wanted them to know. One thing Jesus taught about was prayer.

"When you pray, you should not pray so that others will see and hear you," Jesus said. "Go to a quiet place. God will hear you when you pray."

"Some people pray with a lot of words. They think God will hear them if they use many words. Do not pray like that. Pray words like these:

'God in heaven, You are special. We pray that people would do what You say. Give us the food we need each day. Do not be angry with us when we do wrong things. Help us show love to those who do wrong things to us. Protect us and show us how to do the things you want us to do. Amen.'

KIDS



MATTHEW 5:1-2; 6:5-13

LIVE IT OUT: Review the Bible story with your child. Use the statements in the Model Prayer to help your child write a prayer to God. Explain how each statement is a way to praise God.

Jesus went up the mountain and sat down. Jesus' disciples went with Him up the mountain. Jesus began to teach about prayer.

Jesus said, "When you pray, you should not pray in a way that will make people want to look at you. Do not stand up and pray where everyone can see you. Find a secret place and pray there."

Jesus then said to His followers, "When you pray do not need pray using a lot of words. God already knows your thoughts."

Jesus wanted to make sure that His disciples really understood how to pray so Jesus gave them an example.

Jesus said, "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

STUDENTS

THE POINT: We should love our enemies even as Christ has loved us.

- How do you know when someone has crossed the line and become your "enemy"?
- What are the benefits of forgiving those who have harmed us?
- How do you think most people in our culture would react to Jesus' teaching in these verses?
- What keeps us from treating others the way we want to be treated?
- In what ways can loving our enemies be very difficult?
- In what ways can our treatment of others help or harm our witness?
- How have you seen God's undeserved goodness displayed in your life?

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Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Challenge your family to make a list of all the ways God has shown you love. Use this list all week long to start your prayers with thanksgiving.
- **COMMUNITY:** If you have experienced disagreements or differences with someone in your church family, take time to show them love and create unity. Encourage your student to do the same.
- **CULTURE:** With your student, create a list of people that have wronged you. Commit to turning that list into a prayer list and pray for a Christlike love towards those people.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

LUKE 9:57-62

Let the Dead Bury Their Dead

CONNECTION POINT: People should be thankful for everything Jesus has done for them.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Life can often feel like an unending round of tasks and responsibilities. Many things call for our attention and care—and most of these are good and important things! So it's a challenge when Jesus spoke of an all-or-nothing commitment to follow Him. How do we juggle the call to follow Christ with so many other duties and responsibilities pressing on us?

PRESCHOOL



JOHN 6:1-13

LIVE IT OUT: Sing the following words to the tune "God Is So Good":
*I thank You, God. I thank You, God.
I thank You, God. Thank You for my _____.* Pause and allow your child to fill in what he is thankful for.

Jesus was on a mountainside. He looked at the large crowd of people following Him. Jesus asked His disciple Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people?"

Philip answered, "It would take lots of money to buy so much bread." Andrew told Jesus, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two fish. That isn't enough for so many people."

Jesus told His disciples, "Tell the people to sit down." The people sat in the grass. There were five thousand men in the crowd. Jesus thanked God for the food.

He gave bread and fish to the people. Each person ate all he wanted.

Jesus told His disciples to gather the leftovers so the food would not be wasted. They gathered twelve baskets of leftover bread.

KIDS



JOHN 6:1-13

LIVE IT OUT: As a family, make a list of the things God gives you. During your family prayer time take turns thanking God for the things on your list.

A huge crowd was following Jesus. Jesus and His disciples went and sat down on the mountain. They saw the large crowd of people coming near them. Jesus knew they would need food.

Jesus looked at Philip and asked, "Where are we to buy bread to feed all of these people?" Andrew came to Jesus and said, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish."

Jesus told all of the people to sit down. There were about five thousand men, plus women and children who all sat on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks for them. Jesus passed the loaves to the people. Jesus took the fish, offered thanks for them, and gave them to the people, as much as they wanted.

When everyone was finished eating, Jesus told His disciples to gather the leftover food. They gathered twelve baskets of food.

STUDENTS

THE POINT: Following Jesus takes priority over all other commitments.

- What can we learn about what it means to follow Jesus in these verses?
- What things might hinder us from following Jesus?
- When has following Jesus put you in an uncomfortable situation?
- Why is it often difficult to make following Jesus our top priority?
- What are some excuses we use to delay our obedience to Christ?
- How does your life show that spreading the good news is a priority?
- How does looking back affect our walk with Christ?

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Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Ask your student to evaluate what might be stopping him or her from following Christ wholeheartedly. Pray together for the strength to turn away from those things.
- **COMMUNITY:** Challenge your student to evaluate his or her daily activities and consider which ones are honoring God and which may be keeping him or her from following God fully.
- **CULTURE:** To follow God, we must be willing to sacrifice everything now for the sake of eternal rewards. Help your student to understand following Christ is worth any cost and consider how you can teach the same to nonbelievers.

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BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE

LUKE 14:25-35

Hate Your Family

CONNECTION POINT: People should love Jesus and talk to Him daily.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: In the Ten Commandments, God commanded us to honor our parents, but Jesus came and spoke of hating our parents. Since Jesus also told us He did not come to abolish the law (Matthew 5:17), how do we reconcile His words with the Ten Commandments? Rather than be offended by Jesus' words, the better choice is to look deeper and discover exactly what Jesus was saying about the nature and intensity of our love for Him and others.

PRESCHOOL



LUKE 22:39-48

LIVE IT OUT: Help your child learn the Bible verse: "God hears me when I talk to Him. Psalm 66:19." Say the verse using sign language: *God*—point up; *hears*—cup hand behind ear; *me*—point to your chest; *talk*—four fingers on side of chin, move back and forth; *Him*—point up.

Jesus and His disciples celebrated Passover together by eating a special supper. Afterward Jesus walked to a garden. His disciples followed Him. Jesus said to His disciples, "Stay here and pray."

Jesus walked a little further away. He knelt down and prayed, "Father! If possible, please stop what is going to happen. But I want to do whatever You want." Jesus knew that men would be coming soon to get Him. He knew that this was part of God's plan.

An angel came to Jesus to help Him. Jesus kept praying. After a while, Jesus got up. He walked back to the disciples. The disciples were sleeping!

Jesus said, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray." Jesus wanted the disciples to be ready for what was going to happen.

KIDS



LUKE 22:39-48

LIVE IT OUT: Take time at the end of each day for a family prayer time. Talk about prayer concerns with your child or children. Pray together for the concerns of each family member.

When Jesus and His disciples finished celebrating Passover, they went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus told His disciples to pray so that they would not be tempted. Jesus then went ahead a little farther and began to pray.

Jesus knelt down and talked to God. He asked God to take the burden of dying on the cross away from Him if it was God's will, but Jesus told God He would do whatever He wanted Him to do.

An angel came down from heaven to give Him strength.

Jesus knew that dying on the cross was going to be very hard. Jesus prayed and prayed asking God to help Him.

When Jesus rose from prayer, He saw His disciples sleeping because they were so sad. Jesus woke them up and asked, "Why are you sleeping?" Jesus told them once again. "Pray so that you will not be tempted."

STUDENTS

THE POINT: Loving Jesus should be so intense it makes everything else look like hate.

- Why do you think many people are initially attracted to Jesus?
- What are the daily implications of following Jesus as a devoted disciple?
- Why is counting the cost so important in following Christ?
- What cost of following Christ seems especially difficult for you?
- How can Christ-followers guard against losing their influence for Christ?
- What's the importance of Christian community in influencing the culture around us?

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Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Talk to your student about the costs of following Jesus and include personal examples. Pray together thanking God for the things that have shown you He is worth the cost.
- **COMMUNITY:** Consider any friends or family that may be wavering in their commitment to Christ. How can you help them remain faithful and encouraged?
- **CULTURE:** Discuss as a family ways you can improve in demonstrating your love of Jesus to others.

ONE CONVERSATION™

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

LUKE 16:1-12

Exploit Your Friends

CONNECTION POINT: The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and helps people pray.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: We rightly associate all things righteous and holy with Jesus Christ, yet in one parable, Jesus seemed to endorse the unrighteous behavior of one individual. On the surface, His words may seem difficult, but Jesus was pulling a principle out of the unrighteous man's behavior. This principle of how we use temporary things helps us live the righteous life in Christ to which we're called.

PRESCHOOL



JOHN 17:9,20-23

LIVE IT OUT: Make a list of family and friends that your child can pray for. Say a prayer each night for one or two people on the list. Tell your child that people can pray for others.

Jesus often talked to God. Jesus knew that He would not be with the disciples much longer. He prayed for them.

Jesus prayed, "I have taught these men about You. They know I am Your Son, God. You gave them to Me. They belong to You."

Jesus prayed that God would protect and help His disciples. Jesus did not just pray for the twelve men who followed Him. He also prayed for the people who would listen to the disciples and believe what they said.

Jesus prayed, "I pray for those who will believe in Me because of the teaching of the disciples. I pray that other people will look at those who follow Me and know that they love Me. I pray that My disciples will help others know that I am God's Son."

When Jesus prayed these words to God, He was even praying for the people today that love and follow Jesus.

KIDS



ROMANS 8:18-30

LIVE IT OUT: Does your child understand who the Holy Spirit is? If your child is a Christian, the Holy Spirit lives in her. Use a Bible app to find verses that tell about the Holy Spirit and how He ministers to people.

Paul wrote Romans to the church in Rome, but it is also important for us today.

We live in a world with much of suffering. Things are not always easy and we experience pain and hard times, but we have hope knowing Jesus will come again.

Creation is waiting for Jesus to come back to make all things right. Even more so, God's people cannot wait for Jesus to come again and for all things to be made perfect.

While we are waiting for Jesus to come back, we have a helper. The helper is the Holy Spirit. One of the ways He helps us is to pray and talk to God. When we do not know the words to say, the Holy Spirit helps us talk to God. The Holy Spirit prays that all things will work out for our good according to the will of God.

STUDENTS

THE POINT: Be wise with resources and opportunities.

- What do these verses teach about material possessions and ownership?
- How have you seen people squander their God-given resources and opportunities?
- What are the consequences of mismanaging the resources and opportunities God has given us?
- When have you seen faithfulness in little lead to faithfulness in much?
- What are some "little things" you've been entrusted with?
- How can you be wise with the resources and opportunities God has given you?

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Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:

- **CHRIST:** Challenge your student to think critically about the gifts he or she has been given and consider how he or she can use them for the kingdom of God.
- **COMMUNITY:** Who in your church family is in need of help? How can you use the things God has given you to serve and encourage those in need?
- **CULTURE:** Our culture wants us to believe that serving others is bad, but serving Christ means submitting to Him and His will. How can you demonstrate with your life that you serve Jesus?