

# FAMILY CONNECTION

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

**SCRIPTURE** | Matthew 3:1-12

## SESSION SUMMARY

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Many Old Testament prophecies pointed to Jesus. Some pointed to John, Jesus's cousin, who would start a ministry to prepare the way for Jesus's ministry. Today, we read about how John called people to recognize their sin and repent—and pointed people to Jesus, the Redeemer. In this session, we'll see that our lives must elevate Jesus instead of ourselves. Here are the main points:

- We elevate Jesus when we repent (Matt. 3:1-6).
- We elevate Jesus when we're authentic (Matt. 3:7-12).

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

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- On a scale of 1-10, how much does our family's behavior at home differ from our behavior at church? Between church and anywhere else, like work, school, or extracurricular activities?
- Why is it important for our family to strive to follow God with all of our lives wherever we are?
- What excuses does our family make for living like the world instead of living for Jesus?

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

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People point to all kinds of "evidence" to say they're right with God: a family who has followed God as far back as they can trace their family tree, good behavior, material blessings in their lives, and so on. Though these things can happen in the lives of believers, none of them are true evidence of a life changed by God. The only way we can be saved is by confessing our sin to Jesus for salvation. However, the way we live can point to our devotion to Jesus and invite people to come and see Him. For that, we have to look to the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23). Take a few minutes to point out to each other how you see this fruit in your lives. Confess to one another the ones you feel weak in, and then pray or spend time praying silently that God would strengthen you in those areas.