

The home is the center for biblical guidance. This newsletter is for you, the parent, to discuss with your teenager the biblical truths and principles discovered in their small group Bible study. The class that your teenager is a part of uses a Bible study curriculum called Fuel Foundations for Middle School. This newsletter hits the key points in the current Fuel Foundations study. Use this to engage your teenager in discussion. This can take place during a designated time the two of you have set aside, or it can take place as you grab those teachable moments as you travel in the car together.

WHY SESSIONS 1-4 ARE IMPORTANT

Every person needs to know his background in order to understand himself, his choices, his strengths, his weaknesses, and his potential. Knowing that it all begins with God, His provision for us, and His desire to be in relationship with us helps us understand who we are created to be. Knowing that we choose to disobey Him and even devalue other humans in the interest of serving ourselves helps us understand how sinful we really are. This points us toward what we really need: a loving God who has provided deliverance from our own selfishness. That deliverance is only through Jesus Christ.

Biblical Truths from Sessions 1-4

From beginning to end, the Bible tells the story of God's desire to have a relationship with all people that lasts forever and how His Son made that relationship possible for those who follow Him. (Romans 5:12-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12)

God created everything that exists and is pleased with His creation. (Genesis 1:1-2:3,7,18-25)

All of us are sinners, and it all began when the first humans, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God. (Genesis 2:8-9,15-17, 3:1-24)

Since the time of the first family, sin has corrupted relationships between human beings. (Genesis 4:1-16)

Discussion Starters:

Ask your teenager to explain the main storyline of his or her favorite movie or video game. Ask: **In a nutshell, what is it about?** Discuss the fact that the Bible, from beginning to end, is about God's love for us and His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Spend time discussing how essential it is to read the Bible with this perspective.

Read Romans 1:18-20. Ask your teenager to think about his or her favorite outdoor place. Ask: **Do you ever feel close to God there?** Discuss how God created everything and that this creation even witnesses that He exists. Ask him or her to tell you other ways he or she sees God in nature.

Tell your teenager about the first time you remember him or her disobeying you or saying, "No!" Ask him or her to share examples of times when it was easier to be disobedient than obedient. Discuss the fact that we are born with the nature to rebel against authority. Ask him or her why it seems to be hard to obey.

Talk about a case of sibling rivalry in your home. If you have only one child, discuss a rivalry in your parents' home as you were growing up. Ask your teenager to describe a time when someone he or she knows was extremely selfish. Discuss the fact that we must choose to overcome selfishness by treating others as we would want to be treated.