

*he 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 9-12 ARE IMPORTANT

Beginning to understand that God works in His way and in His timing is important in life. Too many times, we go through our weeks with the boredom of routine, expecting church to be boring and life to be boring. We assume that He works this way, but the truth is, God is never boring. God chooses to work in unexpected ways through unexpected people. He shapes and molds those He uses instead of using those who feel entitled to be used by Him. He uses circumstances to develop character. He is always in control and rules with love and grace.

### Biblical Truths from Sessions 9-12

God does not limit Himself to work in our customs. He uses imperfect people in His ways to grow them and accomplish His will. (Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41; 28:10-22)

God used events in Jacob's life to mold him into the man He desired Jacob to be. (Genesis 29:13-30; 30:25-34; 31:1-16; 32:1-33:11)

God allows circumstances we do not understand to occur in our lives. God developed the character of Joseph to lead Egypt during a time of crisis and fulfilled His promise to Abraham by continuing the plan of redemption. (Genesis 37:1-11,18-36; 39; 41:1-16,28-40; 42:1-13; 45:1-8; 50:15-21)

Job learned that even in the midst of suffering and questions, God is sovereign, compassionate, and gracious. (Job 1:1-2:10; 38; 40:1-5; 42)

### Discussion Starters:

Discuss your family's weekly routine. Afterward, discuss a week in which a great surprise or event occurred in the life of your family. Ask: **What would you do if God decided to do something totally unexpected in your life?** Talk about how we expect life to be boring and our weeks to be routine, but God may choose differently. Remind your teenager to serve God with the expectation that He may do something spectacular in or through his or her life.

Ask: **Have you ever been tricked?** Discuss how it felt to expect one thing and receive another. Point out that God did not trick Jacob, but used an unhealthy situation to humble and shape him. Talk about how pride often gets in the way of doing great things, while humility allows us to be used as a clean instrument to serve God.

Ask your teenager to give examples from movies of times when the situation seemed hopeless but turned out to be heroic. Discuss how God took Joseph's seemingly bad situation and turned it into a situation where everyone saw Joseph as the hero.

Tell your teenager of a time when you questioned God, only to see Him come through in some unexpected way. Ask him or her to share a similar story from his or her experience, as well. Discuss the fact that when life seems hopeless, God is still there and is always faithful.