

**DISCUSSION 1**

Authentic faith requires receiving and believing.

1. How would you explain the similarities and differences between “receiving Jesus” and “believing in Jesus”?
2. Historically, many Protestants have talked about “faith” as an act of knowledge, assent, and trust. Essentially, they believe faith involves understanding information about something, believing it to be true, and placing your trust in it. Why is each aspect key to faith in Jesus?
3. John’s gospel includes examples of people “believing in Jesus” in a way that is self-centered and spurious (John 2:23-25 or 6:26). How might you discern if your faith is truly receiving and believing in Jesus, or if you are simply using Jesus to get something from Him?
4. In light of this discussion, how would you explain authentic faith to an unbeliever?

**DISCUSSION 2**

Belief results in becoming a child of God.

1. What are some of the privileges and benefits that we are given as children of God? Try to come up with a list of at least ten (Ephesians 1 is a great place to start).
2. Can you think of a time when knowing you were a child of God brought you comfort? Share as you feel comfortable.
3. What responsibilities come with being God’s child?

**DISCUSSION 3**

Children of God are reborn.

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3, 23, John 3:1-6, and 2 Cor. 5:17. Explain the concept of being “reborn”— both how it happens and the changes it causes.
2. John introduces the ideas of being God’s child and being reborn, which will show up throughout the rest of John. What are some ways you’ve experienced God’s work in your life that indicate you were made new or were reborn?
3. If you are God’s child and you have been reborn by the Spirit, how should you live differently this week? What is one specific way you can apply this truth this week?

4. How are the biblical concepts of rebirth and adoption similar and yet different? Together, how do they give a fuller picture of what happens at salvation?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss what true faith in Jesus involves and what that looks like for your family. Ask your children to tell you what they know about Jesus and what it means to believe those truths. Talk about how your family can help each other trust God instead of man.
2. Ask your children to share some of the benefits of being in your family. Then ask what some of the benefits of being in God's family are.
3. What are some promises we can claim if we are God's children through Jesus?

## **APPLICATION**

**Individual:** Make a list of the privileges, benefits, and promises in Scripture—or find a list online—that apply to us through Jesus as God's beloved children. Highlight a few to memorize during a current season or struggle you're in. Send a text or email to a friend to encourage them with one or more of these truths.

**Individual:** Spend time in prayer thanking God for all the benefits, privileges, and promises we have as His children.

**Group:** Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with someone this week.