



FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES WEEK 1 HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

Family Discussion Kick-Off

1. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
2. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
3. **Discuss** the welcome question: **What do you like to do on a rainy day?**

Family Activity

You'll Need

1 Get Closer activity supplement

To Do

1. Kids **face** you and **move** 5 giant steps backward.
Say: I'll say a sentence one time, and you repeat what you heard when I count to three.
2. **Quietly whisper** a phrase from the Get Closer activity supplement, then **loudly count** to three.
3. Kids **say** what they think you said.
Say: It's hard to hear when you're far away, isn't it? Let's get closer and try it again!
4. Kids **move** one giant step closer to you.
5. **Repeat** steps 2-4 whispering the same phrase until all kids are close enough to correctly repeat the phrase.
Say: Getting closer to God is kind of like this game! God is always with us and always loves us—but it's easier to hear His voice and feel His love when we get closer to Him.
6. **If time allows, play again** with kids as the whisperers.

Ask this after the activity.

1. **What do you think made the game harder when you were far away?** *Answers will vary.*

Family Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

Jesus is my closest friend when I spend my time with Him.

James 4:8 NLT

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. ...

1. **What happens when we make choices to get closer to God?** *We find out God is close to us.*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **What do you think it means to be "close to God?"** *Answers will vary.*
2. **Where do you think God goes if you don't choose to be close to Him?** *Answers will vary, but lead to this idea: Nowhere—He's always waiting for you.*
3. **How do you think you can tell if you are close to God?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **Read the Bible story (John 15:1-5). What kind of fruit do you think you'll grow if you stay close to God?** *Answers will vary. Ideas: Love, joy, peace, etc.*
5. **Which helps you get closer to God: choosing to do things to get to know Him, or just wishing you were closer to Him?** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What do you think you need to do this week to get closer to God?** *Answers will vary. Ideas: Pray, read the Bible, sing songs to God, think about God, etc.*
2. **What do you think can help you remember to be close to God each day?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, please remind us to spend time with You each day. Thank You for showing us how close You are. In Jesus' name, amen.