



# Crossroads Family Conversations



## PARENT EDITION

5th Grade

### **Welcome to Family Conversations**

This in-home faith curriculum, for Trinity's Crossroads Ministry, is designed to encourage time for parents and students to converse, study Scripture, read the Small Catechism, and pray together. Each year, students and parents in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will receive a new set of Crossroads Family Conversations to deepen their faith and prepare for Confirmation, a public affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ.

An exciting aspect of Family Conversations is that they actively involve parents in the spiritual lives of their youth at home. Parents have the opportunity to learn alongside their son/daughter, answer questions about spiritual topics, and help develop spiritual habits in their youth.

### **How Do These Conversations Work Best?**

Trinity provides parents and students with a set of Conversation Guides that tie directly to short videos available through Trinity's website. These guides are self-explanatory to work through; however, the following tips may be helpful:

*Commit 30-45 minutes, at a regular time, each week to Family Conversations.*

Having a designated time in your schedule will help you not feel overwhelmed.

*Complete the Family Conversations in a relaxed, comfortable environment.*

This isn't school work. This is a chance for your family to learn, pray, and talk about your faith together. It's a chance to live out Deuteronomy 6. At first the lessons may seem a bit awkward, but once you get started they will become easier. When having a Family Conversation, be sure to have access to the Crossroads YouTube Channel (the link is accessible from the Crossroads Ministry page of Trinity's website), Student Guide, Parent Guide, a Bible, and Luther's Small Catechism.

*Parents, take a moment to read through the lesson before discussing it with your student.*

You are the primary spiritual role model for your student so be open and honest in sharing your thoughts and struggles. Teaching the faith to your youth doesn't mean you need to know it all! If you do not know an answer to a tough question, tell your student you don't know and discover the answer together.

*Questions about Family Conversations or lessons? Troubles accessing materials?*

Contact Pastor Anders at 952-442-4165 x205 or [anders.davidson@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:anders.davidson@trinitywaconia.org)

## The Basics of Each Lesson

Every lesson consists of five sections. Below is information on each of the sections that you will make your way through:

### 1. Parent's Prayer:

This is a chance for the parent to pray with his/her student. A guided prayer is provided, but you are encouraged to create your own, if you feel comfortable. These prayers should invite God to work through your time together.

### 2. Video:

Access Trinity's YouTube channel on the Crossroads page of Trinity's website ([trinitywaconia.org](http://trinitywaconia.org)). Each video title will match the number and name in the lesson (i.e. "5.1 Abraham").

### 3. Scripture Search:

You will want to have your Bible and Luther's Small Catechism available. Read through the section of Scripture and/or the text from the Small Catechism. Students are encouraged to do the reading.

### 4. Family Conversation:

This is an opportunity to talk together about the lesson. This is not a time for parents to quiz students. There are a list of questions for you to work through as a family. Some guided answers and discussion points are also provided to help, if needed. Feel free to venture beyond the topic as the conversation unfolds.

### 5. Student's Prayer:

This is a chance for students to pray. A guided prayer is available; however, students are encouraged to create their own.

Notes:

# Lesson 5.1 ~ Abraham

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, the Bible is full of so many amazing stories of people who loved you and gave their lives to following you. Help us as we learn about Abraham and the faith he had to trust in you. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.1 Abraham

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Genesis 22:1-19.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. What is the hardest test you have ever had to take?

*Share a time when you had to take a difficult test. This isn't meant to be a question about a test from God, but simply a difficult test you remember from school, work, or some other area of life. Ask your student about a difficult test and listen to his/her answer.*

2. What's the difference between being tested and being tempted?

*Although at first these words might be confusing, they are very different. God sometimes tests us, but He never tempts us. A test is something that God might use to grow us or strengthen our faith; a temptation is something that the devil uses to pull us away from God or weaken our faith.*

3. If you had to live a perfect life in order to get into heaven, do you think you would pass the test?

*Hopefully everyone answers "no" to the initial question. If not, challenge your student and look at the 10 Commandments. Ask if he/she really has lived perfectly. Since no one is perfect, we really cannot do anything to get into heaven; all that we can do is repent of our sins and trust in Jesus who paid the price for our sins. The great news is that we know we get to experience the gift of heaven because of what Jesus did for us.*

4. What is faith? How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in God?

*Read Hebrews 11:1-2. Faith is the confidence and trust we have in the promises of God throughout the Scriptures. Abraham showed his faith in many ways, particularly in being willing to obey God and sacrifice his only son. Hebrews 11:8-12 has some other examples of ways that Abraham demonstrated the faith that God gave him.*

5. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. How do difficult trials and tests help us grow in our faith?

*Difficult trials and tests help us grow in our faith because when we have nowhere else to turn, we often turn to God. Knowing that God is with us through these times of trial helps build our faith. Share a difficult time from your life with your student and how that helped grow in your relationship with God.*

Work together to define the following words:

- **Abraham**—Father of many nations, was tested by God to sacrifice his only son, leader among God's people.
- **Test**—Something God uses to grow and strengthen our faith.
- **Temptation**—Something the devil uses to pull us away from God and weaken our faith.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, help me to be a person of great faith. As I live my life help me to continually trust in you and all that you promise me. Thank you, for growing and strengthening my faith. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.2 ~ Moses

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear Father, thank you for all the great stories of people throughout the Bible who followed you. Help us as we learn about Moses and how he followed you; help us to be encouraged by his story and to see ways that his story can often compare to our own lives. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.2 Moses

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Exodus 3.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. What are some things that you aren't very good at?

*Share answers with each other. One of the great things about the story of Moses is that God uses him to make a difference, even though he feels like he's not very good at speaking.*

2. Moses asked the question, "Who am I?" What makes this such a great question for Moses to ask?

*It could be great that Moses asked this question because he knew that he needed God's help and he looked to God for confidence. We can make a difference in the world, but only because God promises to work through us.*

3. Why do you think God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things?

*All throughout the Bible, God uses all kinds of people to change the world. He doesn't choose perfect people, but He chooses people who struggle with trusting Him, people that sin, and people that without God would be nothing but failures. God works through people to share His love with the world. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. When God uses ordinary people, people are much more likely to boast in the greatness of God instead of the greatness of themselves.*

4. Who is somebody in your life that you trust? What makes them trustworthy?

*Share examples from your life and explain why you trust these people.*

5. What are some areas/situations in your life where you need help with trusting God right now?

*In the story of Moses, he initially asked "Who am I?" He wasn't immediately confident that God was going to walk with him and take care of him. However, as God promised to be with him, Moses went and trusted God. Listen to your student as he/she shares about parts of his/her life where it may be difficult to trust. Remember those things so you can encourage him/her throughout the week.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Moses—A man unsure of whether he could do what God was asking; a man who would encounter God in the burning bush, and get to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
- Burning Bush—The way the Lord talked to Moses.
- Trust—Believing in something or someone, no matter what the present circumstance.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, sometimes trusting is difficult. Help me to remember the promise that you gave to Moses and that you gave to the disciples when you said that you will be with us always. Thank you for promising to be with me and work through me to do incredible things. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.3 ~ David

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you for all the blessings in our life. Help us as we go through life to remember the love and care that you put into creating us. Help us to remember that we are not an accident. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.3 David

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through 1 Samuel 17:1-12, 32-51.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. When have you envied somebody else's talents or abilities?

*Share some examples from your own life.*

2. What are some of the unique ways that God has gifted you? How can you use those gifts to honor God and serve others?

*Encourage your student to think of ways that God has gifted him/her. Also help your student think of ways that his/her gifts can be honoring to God and can be used to serve others.*

3. Read Isaiah 64:8. What does the Bible mean when it describes us as "clay" and God as the "potter"?

*Help your student understand this verse and how God tells us, that as our creator, He has created us with care. He has gifted us with skills and passions that He desires us to have. Clay always becomes what the maker wants it to be and is molded, shaped, and changed as the potter desires. We are still being molded.*

4. Why is it important that not everybody has the same talents and abilities?

*Stress the importance that God gives different people, different talents and abilities and wants to use us all differently. It's okay for us to be better than others at some things and not as good as others at other things. Consider reading about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.*

5. What are consequences of trying to be somebody other than who God created you to be?

*Try to list out possible consequences or even things that you've experienced. Include consequences like never learning how God has gifted you or getting down on yourself for not being as good as someone else.*

Work together to define the following words:

- David—The King of Israel, fought Goliath.
- Goliath—The giant Philistine that David killed.
- Abilities—Things that someone is good at.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you for the gifts and abilities that you have given me. Help me to be thankful for the gifts you have blessed me with and not worry about whether or not I am as talented as someone else. Teach me who you want me to be and how I can serve you with my time, talents, and treasures. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.4 ~ Proverbs

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, be with us during this time as we open up Proverbs. Help us to learn from the wisdom in this book and apply it to our daily lives. Speak to us and grow us as we learn to love you and others as you have loved us. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.4 Proverbs

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Proverbs 6:1-19.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. What's one of the dumbest or most embarrassing things you've ever done?

*Share some of your own personal and silly stories. Be honest.*

2. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. Why is wisdom such a big deal? What are some of the ways that we can gain wisdom?

*Wisdom helps as we live our lives. Wisdom helps us do what is right, just, and fair. It helps us make godly decisions. We can gain wisdom by listening and seeking guidance.*

3. Proverbs has a lot of practical tips for our life. Why do you think being a hard worker is an important part of being a wise person?

*Share some of the ways your hard work has helped you love your family. Also consider discussing why it would be foolish to be lazy or feel entitled.*

4. How might having wisdom help you honor God and love others more?

*Try to think of how the different topics in the book of Proverbs fit into these two things. When Proverbs talks about friendships, families, or work how does having wisdom in those areas help you love God and others?*

5. What are some ways you can grow in wisdom?

*There are a lot of possible ideas. Some ideas include: going to church, learning from parents, talking with wise mentors, and reading the Bible. Feel free to add on to this list.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Wisdom—The knowledge and experience needed to make good decisions.
- Proverbs—A collection of wise sayings, mostly from Solomon.
- Solomon—King of Israel, David's Son.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you for giving us the gift of work. Thank you, that you have given us this world and that we get to take care of it. Help us to be hard workers. Help us to live out the things from the book of Proverbs so we can honor you with our words and actions. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.5 ~ Ecclesiastes

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you for coming to this earth and living among us. Thank you that even though we are sinful people, you continue to love and care for us. Please remind us throughout our life how much you provide for us. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.5 Ecclesiastes

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. What are some things you consider meaningless? What are some things you consider far from meaningless?

*Try to steer away from using the typical church answers like Jesus or the Bible for things that you would consider far from meaningless. Come up with the things that you really find enjoyment doing; think of the things you love to do and hate to do.*

2. Re-read Ecclesiastes 2:11. Why would Solomon consider all these things meaningless?

*There are a lot of things that we may find enjoyment from and that we might consider meaningful activities, but what Solomon learned is that apart from Jesus these things are meaningless. It wasn't long until Solomon felt like the things he had and the things he was doing were ultimately meaningless.*

3. What are some things that you would consider fragile? Why could life be described as fragile?

*Part of the feast discussed in this lesson uses a booth that is fragile and sways with the wind. The booth helps remind us of how fragile life is. List some things that are fragile. Life could be considered fragile because things often change or are even broken by what happens in life.*

4. What would be considered living a worldly life? What would be considered living a godly life?

*Try to think of a variety of actions that could fit into both categories. If your student has trouble coming up with some examples, list out examples and have them put them into the appropriate category.*

5. Read 1 John 2:15-17. Do you think this verse means that everything in this world is evil and we should stay away from it? If not, what does the verse mean?

*This section of Scripture doesn't tell us that everything in the world is evil. We know this because God created the world and everything in it and told us it was "good." The world's desires don't last. When we seek what the world wants, it doesn't fulfill us — things like fame, wealth, and possessions. What truly fulfills us is life in Christ. When we have life in Christ, we can enjoy the great gifts God has given us.*

Work together to define the following words:

- God's Will—That we keep his name holy, that we share the message of Jesus, and lead godly lives.
- Faith—Firm belief or trust in something or someone.
- Petition—A request to God.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, help me to live according to your will. Sometimes it's difficult to obey your words and live a godly life, so please help me follow through. Help me when I'm tempted so I do what's right; remind me when things are difficult to hold onto the faith that you've given me. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.6 ~ Daniel

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear Jesus, thank you for this time together that we can open your Word and learn from the stories of the Bible. Help us as we look at the life of Daniel to learn more about him and more about ourselves. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.6 Daniel

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Daniel 1:1-21.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. What is something that you love that is really hard to resist if it's around?

*Share your own example of something that you love and have a hard time resisting. (Ex: pizza, chocolate, video games.)*

2. What are some reasons that it would have been appealing for Daniel to go along with King Nebuchadnezzar?

*King Nebuchadnezzar offered a great place to live, food and drink from the King, and the opportunity to enjoy all that Babylon had to offer. These would all be things that were appealing to Daniel, but he could only get them by giving up some of his convictions. He would have to go against God.*

3. What should we do to fight against temptations?

*There are several possible answers to this question. Help your student think of some ways to try to fight against temptation. One way is to stay away from things that you know cause temptation. Read Luke 4:1-13. Discuss how Jesus uses Scripture to fight against temptation.*

4. Daniel's friends followed his example by doing the right thing. What are some ways that you can be an example to your friends?

*Discuss the opportunity we have as Christians to be a witness of our faith. Also, share about the influence that we can have by positively pressuring our friends to do what is right, especially when other people may pressure them to do the wrong thing.*

5. What are some ways that you might be tempted in an average day?

*Help your student think through an average day and the things that might cause them temptation. Help him/her think of things like fighting with family members, cheating in school, making fun of somebody, or a variety of other possible temptations.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Daniel—Put in the lions' den because of his faith in God, didn't give in to Babylonian ways, stood strong in his convictions.
- Babylon—Ancient city that David's people were taken to.
- Temptation—Something that you shouldn't do, but want to do.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, help me as I have temptations in my life. Help me to act like Daniel did and intentionally decide to fight against the temptations that may come my way. When I do fall into temptation, forgive me, and help me as I face them again in the future. Amen.*

# Lesson 5.7 ~ Jonah

1. **Parent's Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you so much for this time together as a family. Thank you for giving us the Bible and guide as we look at the life of Jonah. Help us learn from Jonah and find ways that this relates to our own lives. Amen.*

2. **Video**—5.7 Jonah

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Jonah 1.

4. **Family Conversation**—Take some time to work through the following questions together:

1. Have you ever tried to run away from something? When?

*Share a time when you've run away from a situation, a responsibility, etc. Describe what you were running from and why you were running.*

2. When people run away from what God wants, how do you think God responds to them?

*Discuss God's desire to always bring people back when they run away. Be sure to point out God's grace and forgiveness no matter what a person has done when they've run. Read Jonah 2 and discuss the great lengths God goes to in order to rescue Jonah.*

3. In the story of Jonah, what are some of the problems that are caused by him running from God?

*The Ninevites are in danger of never hearing God's word, the people on the boat are in danger because of the storm, and Jonah's own life is in danger because of deciding to be thrown overboard.*

4. Read Jonah 3. How did the people respond when Jonah finally obeyed God and preached His Word?

*The Ninevites responded by repenting of their sins and God had compassion on them.*

5. Who are some people in your life that you can share God's love with?

*Just like God asked Jonah to preach his word to the Ninevites, God asks us to share the Gospel with the people around us. Try to think of friends and family who do not know Jesus. Pray and seek opportunities to share the Gospel with those people.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Jonah—A book of the Bible, a prophet that runs away from God.
- Chaos—Craziness, confusion, in the story of Jonah craziness that is caused by bad decisions.
- Gospel—The message of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

5. **Student Prayer**—Feel free to use the prayer below or create your own.

*Dear God, thank you for the story of Jonah. Help me, in my own life, when I feel like I'd rather run from you than obey your laws. Forgive me when I do run and be with me as I look for ways that I can be sharing your message with those around me. Amen.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conversation Topics

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                  |                        |                           |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1 Abraham      | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.2 Moses        | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.3 David        | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.4 Proverbs     | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.5 Ecclesiastes | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.6 Daniel       | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 5.7 Jonah        | Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |

### Do you need additional information?

Upon completion of each section, please sign and date. At the end of this series, please return this page to Pastor Anders. If you have any questions related to the Family Conversations component to Trinity's Crossroads Ministry, please contact Pastor Anders.

**Pastor Anders Davidson**  
**Family Life Pastor**  
**[anders.davidson@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:anders.davidson@trinitywaconia.org)**  
**952-442-4165 x205**

*© 2010 RJ Grunewald. Content has been modified for use with permission by FLCWORKS publications; Troy, Michigan.*