



# Crossroads Family Conversations



## PARENT EDITION

6th 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 6.1 ~ The Gospels

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

*Dear God, thank you for giving us your Word. Thank you for the Gospels; that we can open the Bible and read about who you are and what you've done for us. Help us as we learn from the Gospels to grow in our faith and knowledge of you. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.1 The Gospels

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Luke 9:18-27.

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

1. Read John 20:30-31. What's the purpose of the Gospels?

*The purpose of John's Gospel, and all the Gospels, is that we might believe the truth about Jesus. They all write to different audiences and with different styles, but they all want us to believe the Good News.*

2. Why do you think there are four Gospels and not only one?

*Each Gospel is a different account from a different witness. Think about witnesses to a car accident; each person might notice and write down different details about the event. Each Gospel, while telling the same truth, records different details about the life of Jesus. By having four, we have a better understanding of who Jesus was.*

3. How would you define the word "Gospel" in your own words?

*Encourage your student to look up this word, if he/she can't define it. There are two main ways we might talk about the word "Gospel": 1.) The Gospels are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John 2.) The "Good News." When talking about the second definition, ask your student to describe the Good News of Jesus in his/her own words.*

4. Read John 14:6. Why do you think this verse matters?

*Encourage your student to talk about the difference between Jesus being "a" truth and "the" truth, a life and the life, and a way" and the way. Ask him/her what the difference is? Why does it matter for our faith?*

Work together to define the following words:

- The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; biographical writings of the life of Jesus from eye witnesses.
- The Gospel—The Good News of Jesus.
- John—The "Disciple whom Jesus loved" and author of John.

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

*Dear God, thank you for being a God of Good News. Thank you, for the truth of the Gospel; that even though I am sinful, Jesus died on the cross, and rose again for my salvation. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.2 ~ Acts

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

*Dear God, teach us to be the Church. Help us to see the way that the earliest followers of you lived in community and dedicated their lives to you. Help us to give our life to you just like the early Christian Church did. Amen.*

2. **Video—6.2 Acts**

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Acts 2:1-47.

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

1. What is something that you have spent a lot of time at? Why do you work so hard on this?

*Share examples from your own life of something that you have spent a lot of time working on. Examples for this question should be simple things like an instrument or a sport that require a lot of practicing.*

2. What are some ways that you can be devoted to Christ like the apostles were in Acts 2:42?

*Think of examples of ways we can be devoted to growing in our relationship with Christ. It could be things like reading the Bible, praying, going to church, or being involved with youth ministry.*

3. Being in the early church led many people to also share the Good News of Jesus with others. What are some ways you can encourage your friends to know Jesus?

*Accept and encourage your student's answers. Let him/her know it doesn't have to be a complicated message. He/she can simply share what he/she knows and believes or invite a friend to church or just show the love of Christ in daily actions.*

4. If you were to share what having a relationship with Christ has done for you, what would you say?

*Be sure to share your answer as well as listen to your student's. Feel free to be personal with the experiences that you've had and things that have helped (or not helped) you grow in your relationship with God. Also, be sure to point out the importance of us all being sinners and Jesus' death and resurrection paying the price for our sin.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Acts—Book of the Bible about the history of the early Church.
- Pentecost—Time when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.
- Devoted—Committed, dedicated.

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

*Dear God, thank you for paying the price for our sin. Thank you for giving all Christians the gift of your Holy Spirit and help us to be able to live out our faith like the believers of the early church did. Help us to be devoted to you and your Word and to share our faith with others. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.3 ~ Romans

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

*Dear God, thank you for the gift of eternal life. There are so many times that we take for granted the ways that you have blessed us. Remind us of the gift that you have given when you paid the price for our sin on the cross. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.3 Romans

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Romans 5:1-11.

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

1. What is the best gift you've ever received?

*Accept and affirm your student's answer. Share about a time when you received a gift. Has there ever been a time when the gift you received was unexpected? Or better than anticipated?*

2. What's the significance of Christ dying "while we were still sinners?"

*Jesus doesn't wait for us to get our act together and stop sinning. He took on the full punishment of our sin, knowing that we are sinners and continue to sin.*

3. Read Romans 12:1-2. What is worship according to these verses?

*According to these verses, worship happens in view of God's mercy and is when we offer our bodies as living sacrifices. Discuss what it means to offer your life as an act of worship to God. What does worship look like as we go to school or work, on the sports fields, live as a family, and so on?*

4. Read Romans 6:23. In terms of our relationship with God, what do we deserve and what do we receive?

*We deserve death. We deserve to be separated from God forever. Yet, God, in his great love for us, gives us eternal life. He has mercy. He forgives even though we don't deserve it.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Romans—Paul's letter to the church in Rome.
- Gift—Something freely given to another person.
- Worship—Living our life for God in view of His mercy.

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

*Dear God, help me to worship you in all that I do. Help me to worship as I go to school, as I hang out with friends, and as I live every moment of my life. Thank you for the sacrifice you have made for me. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.4 ~ Ephesians

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

*Dear God, thank you for giving us your Word. Thank you that we can open up the Bible and read these words that were written thousands of years ago. We know that these same words, that were true then, are true today. Help us to understand and follow these words. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.4 Ephesians

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Ephesians 1:1-23.

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

1. What are some things that you don't understand?

*Feel free to answer this question with a serious answer or something simple. If your student can't come up with an answer, encourage him/her to think about a school subject that he/she has trouble understanding. If your student easily comes up with something simple, encourage him/her to ask something like, "Why is their evil in the world?"*

2. Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What is most important to Paul in his prayer?

*Paul emphasizes a few things that are very important to him. He wants Christ to live in us. He wants us to be rooted in love and begin to understand how great God's love for us is.*

3. Re-read Ephesians 1:17-18. Explain this verse in your own words.

*This verse has some big ideas that are important for us to grasp. Help your student break down some of the main ideas. In this verse, Paul keeps asking God to give us the Holy Spirit so that He can show us more of who God is and what He is doing.*

4. Describe a time in your life when you didn't understand what God was doing. How did it turn out?

*Listen to your student's answer. Often when we are in the midst of difficult times, it is hard to see how God is working. When we look back at the same event, we can see that God was with us the whole time.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Mystery—Something we do not know or understand.
- Perspective—Seeing something from a different view, different angles from which to see/understand something.
- Faith—Complete trust in God regardless of the circumstances.

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

*Dear God, sometimes I don't understand why things are the way they are. Thank you for revealing yourself to me. Help me to continue to have faith in the times when it is difficult to see that you are still with me. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.5 ~ Philippians

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

*Dear God, thank you for being such a loving God. Thank you for always forgiving us no matter what we do. Thank you for the sacrifice you made on the cross for us. Grow us in our relationship with you and each other, during this time we have together. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.5 Philippians

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

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

1. Who is someone that you would like to be like?

*Encourage your student to think of people that he/she would like to be like. Maybe there is a famous athlete that they look up to and would want to be like. Maybe there is a family member that they try to imitate. Think back to your childhood and share who you wanted to be like.*

2. According to the Scripture you read, what are the ways that we should copy Christ? Which is the most difficult for you?

*Look through the verses from Philippians 2:1-11 and list out a few examples of the attitude of Jesus. He was humble. He was obedient. He was a servant and he gave everything for other people.*

3. When is it most difficult to imitate Christ? When is it easiest?

*Accept and affirm your student's answer. Share some examples from your life as well.*

4. Read Philippians 3:12-14. In what ways can you "press on toward the goal"?

*It's important, as Christians, that we never look at our lives as being finished working on our faith. Even Paul sees that he hasn't arrived at the goal. Talk about examples of what it would look like to "forget what is behind" and to "strain toward what is ahead."*

Work together to define the following words:

- Attitude—An opinion or general feeling about something.
- Humility—Being modest or respectful; having an attitude that it's not about you.
- Obedient—Obeying the rules or laws placed before you; doing as asked by authority figures.

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

*Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth as a servant. Thank you that, even though you didn't deserve the punishment that you took, you made yourself nothing out of love for us. Help me as I strive to have an attitude like yours. Give me the strength to do it even when it is difficult. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.6 ~ Timothy

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 Paul's letter to Timothy and use it to encourage us as we learn to become students of your Word. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.6 Timothy

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through : 2 Timothy 2:14-19.

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

1. What are some things in your life that you have had to work hard to get good at?

*Listen to examples from your student's life and share examples from your own life.*

2. Why is it important to view learning the Bible as hard work?

*There are a lot of people who do not believe the Bible and have lots of reason for it. There are a lot of people who teach the wrong things about the Bible and can be very convincing. If we don't work at learning the Bible, we often don't catch these errors.*

3. What are some of the ways that Paul encourages us to use God's Word in 2 Timothy 4:1-5?

*Paul encourages us to use God's Word to correct, rebuke, and encourage. Be sure to also point out that Paul says to do this with patience and being careful. Also read what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*

4. How does false teaching hurt peoples' faith?

*Encourage your student's answer. If they need guidance, ask follow up questions. What might he/she put his/her faith in if somebody teaches him/her the wrong things? What if a teacher says Jesus "Isn't real"? What does that do to the students' salvation? What if a teacher tells students that "If they have great faith, they'll get rich." How might that hurt the students' relationship with God?*

Work together to define the following words:

- God's Word—The Bible.
- Worker—Someone who works at something, a person committed to the task (even when it gets hard or is complicated).
- Timothy—A young pastor that Paul is writing to and mentors.

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

*Dear God, help me to become a hard worker when I read your Word. Help me to realize the gifts that you have given me through Jesus and help me learn to correctly handle your Word. Sometimes studying the Bible takes work and can be confusing. Help me to have the desire to work on learning the Bible and to apply your truth to my life. Amen.*

# Lesson 6.7 ~ James

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 from the words of James as he teaches us about the power of our tongue. Help us to love you and love others in everything that we say and do. Amen.*

2. **Video**—6.7 James

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through James 3:1-12.

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

1. Describe a time when somebody hurt you with his/her words.

*Listen and share your examples. Affirm your student as he/she shares examples. Be sure to include an example from your own life.*

2. Children often learn the phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Do you think this is accurate?

*This statement is not true. Words do hurt us. Encourage your student as they explain why or why not they think it is an accurate statement. Help him/her see that what is said about others really can hurt. Our words can leave a lasting impact—positive or negative.*

3. What are some ways that words can hurt people? Use examples.

*Think of examples of how the words that we use might hurt someone. How might gossip hurt our friends? How might our comments about somebody's clothing, skills, or passions hurt them?*

4. Not only can words be hurtful, but they can also be helpful. What are some examples of ways that our words can help other people?

*Share examples of when people have said things that have helped you.*

5. Read James 4:7-11. How do these verses relate to the things that we say on a daily basis?

*We need to have our entire lives submitted to God, which means that our words should also be submitted to God. We will be tempted to say things that hurt people, but we must resist the devil and he will flee from us. Verse 11 clearly points out "Do not slander one another." Discuss what makes this difficult at times.*

Work together to define the following words:

- Tongue—Part of the body that can hurt people and praise God.
- Praise—To glorify someone or something.
- Prayer—Conversation with God.

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

*Dear God, help me to use my words carefully. It's so easy for me to one day use my words to hurt the people around me and another day to sing songs of praise to you. Help me to not only realize the power of my tongue, but to honor you with my words. Amen.*

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

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

6.1 The Gospels

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Acts

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.3 Romans

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.4 Ephesians

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.5 Philippians

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.6 Timothy

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6.7 James

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.*