



Crossroads Family Conversations



PARENT EDITION

8th 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 5th through 8th 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

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). 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 8.1 ~ First Commandment

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

Dear Father, help us as we learn about the prayer you taught us to pray. Help us to understand the words you have given us and to see the importance of spending time talking to you. Thank you for this incredible gift and that we have the opportunity to come to you whenever we want to. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.1 First Commandment

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Luke 11:1-4. Read through the Small Catechism—Section 1 “The Lord’s Prayer,” “Introduction,” and questions 193-207.

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

1. If your house was on fire and you could only take three things with you what would you take? (Family doesn’t count).

Accept and affirm the student’s answer. Be sure to share your three things also.

2. What does it mean to worship God? What does it look like for us to worship things other than God?

We often associate the concept of worship with music, be sure not to let this question be about singing songs in church. Worshiping God is anything we do in response to who God is and what he’s done for us. It can be in the choices we make, the fun we have with our friends, or what we do to praise God. Worshiping other gods is anytime that something else takes the place of God.

3. What are some things in your life that can easily become distractions from God?

Be honest and share things in your own life that can become distractions. In addition to affirming these things, point out that the things themselves are not evil. It is only when they take away from our worship of God that they become evil.

4. When you watch TV, what are some things you notice that people put above God?

If you can’t think of something right away, consider setting aside time to flip through the channels and point out things. It’s likely that you will find examples like money, looks, fame, music, sex, and others.

Work together to define the following words:

- Commandments—God’s law.
- Idol—Anything that we place above God.
- Idolatry—Worshipping something other than the one true God.

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

Dear Jesus, help me to not love anything more than you. Help me as I try to follow the commandments and forgive me for all the times that I fail. Help me to fear, to love, and to trust in you above all things. Amen.

Lesson 8.2 ~ Second Commandment

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

Dear God, you are holy. You are perfect. There are so many times that we don't honor you the way you deserve to be honored, and we don't accurately reflect your name to the world. Help us as we try to honor your name in all that we say and do. Amen.

2. **Video—8.2 Second Commandment**

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Acts 19:13-29. Read through the following sections of the Small Catechism—Meaning of the Second Commandment and questions 24-34.

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

1. What does your name mean? What does the name of God mean?

If you don't know the meaning of your name, consider doing an online search to find the meanings of your name. There are many names for God throughout the Bible; to learn specifically about the name of Jesus, read Matthew 1:18-21.

2. Describe a time when something someone did or said hurt you.

Listen and encourage your student's answer. Share a time in your own life where the things people said about you hurt you. Point out that when people say or do things like these, it often hurts because it hurts the way that people might see us. The same is true with God's name, when we misuse it, it also misrepresents how people see Jesus.

3. Why is it so important for us to not misuse God's name?

God is holy and when we allow ourselves to disgrace us name we are not respecting God for who he is and what he's done and we also do a poor job of showing God's name to the world.

4. What are some ways that people often misuse God's name?

There are lot of possible examples to use here. Some common ones would be cursing, swearing, lying, or using satanic arts. If one of these specific examples is a struggle for you or your student, try to make a commitment to each other to work on it.

5. What are some ways that we should use God's name?

We should use God's name to pray, praise, and give thanks. We should go to God with our hurts, our pains, our needs and talk to him. We can pray to him about anything. We should praise him for who he is and what he is done. And we should continually thank him for all that he's given us.

Work together to define the following words:

- Misuse—To use something in a way that is not how it was intended to be used.
- Vain—Using God's name in a negative way.
- Praise—Worshipping God.

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

Dear God, help me to honor your name in all times. Help me as I try to represent you everywhere that I go. Help me to reflect your name well to my friends, my neighbors, my family, and anyone else I might come in contact with. Amen.

Lesson 8.3 ~ Third Commandment

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

Dear Father, thank you for our chance to come together as a family and open your word. Help us to learn from the truth in your word and specifically in the 3rd commandment. Be with us in our conversations today. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.3 Third Commandment

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Acts 2:42-46. Read through the following sections of the Small Catechism: Meaning of the Third Commandment and questions 35 to 40.

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

1. Who is your best friend? What type of things do you like to do with them?

Encourage your student to share about their best friend and what they like to do together. Share about your friends. It is important that we spend time with those we care about.

2. Why is spending time with God so important?

Point back to the first question and ask what kind of friendship would you have if you didn't spend time with them. If we want to grow in our relationship with God, we have to spend time with him. Remembering the Sabbath is about us setting aside time to hear and learn from God.

3. What are some ways we can spend time with God?

Encourage your student as they come up with things. Likely, the most natural answers will be things like reading the Bible and going to church. In addition to these encourage your student to also come up with things that could honor God by simply enjoying what God has given us. Things like enjoying God's creation or hanging out with a close friend.

4. What are some things that you tend to forget? How does setting aside time each week for a Sabbath help you remember what God has done?

We all have things we forget; likely, your kids forget to do things you tell them. Because we all forget things, it's helpful to have reminders about the important things. When we set aside time for Sabbath, it gives us a reminder about what God has done for us in Jesus, what he's blessed us with, and the important part he is in our life.

5. Spend some time planning a day of Sabbath for the family.

List a few different ideas of some things you could do as a family to honor the Sabbath. You might include things like going to church or things that are related to enjoying the family that God has given you.

Work together to define the following words:

- Sabbath—Day of rest, remembrance, and worship.
- Holy—Sacred, set apart for God.
- Despise—To look down on.

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

Father, thank you for helping me learn the Ten Commandments. Help me to keep the Sabbath day and continually remember who you are and what you've done for me. Amen.

Lesson 8.4 ~ Fourth Commandment

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. As we talk about the Fourth Commandment, help me to understand how it applies to me as a parent. Help us as we learn to love you with all our heart and to love others like you have loved us. Amen.

2. **Video—8.4 Fourth Commandment**

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Ephesians 6:1-4. Read the Explanation of the Small Catechism—Meaning of the Fourth Commandment and questions 48 to 51.

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

1. If you were parent for a day, what rules would you change?

Let this be a fun question that your student can talk about how late they would make bed time and other random rules. Afterwards, take a turn to share if you were kid for a day what you would do while they were the parent.

2. Why are parents important? Why are other authorities also important?

Parents are important because it's the parents job to train their children. Read Proverbs 22:6. Parents help their children grow, they take care of them, and teach them how to follow Jesus. Other authorities (like teachers, pastors, police) are important for various reasons. They might teach us, take care of us, or protect us.

3. What are some ways that you could go out of your way to serve your parents?

Try not to have too much fun listing off ways that they could serve you. Encourage your student to come up with ways that he/she could serve. Share with your student how much it means to you when he/she does this.

4. Reverse your roles. Pretend you are having a discussion about hanging out with a bad group of friends; the student is the parent and the parent is the child.

Parents, when you are playing the role of the child, your goal is to keep pushing to be allowed to hang out with your friends. As your students play the role of parent, encourage them not to give in, but to do what's best for the student.

Work together to define the following words:

- Honor—To highly respect.
- Respect—To love, serve, and obey.
- Authorities—Someone who is in command over you (parents, teachers, police, etc.).

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

Dear God, thank you for my parents. Help me to always love them. Teach me to listen and obey. Help me to value them and to go out of my way to serve them. Teach me to do this for my parents and for all authorities. Amen.

Lesson 8.5 ~ Fifth Commandment

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

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of the commandments. Remind me of the times that I fail to keep them and forgive me for falling short. Help me to understand what it means when you tell us, "Do not murder." Amen.

2. **Video—8.5 Fifth Commandment**

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Matthew 5:21-26. Read through the Small Catechism—Meaning of the Fifth Commandment and questions 52 to 54.

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

1. What are some examples of things that might be considered murder?

List out some of the examples you can think of—murder, abortion, suicide, and euthanasia are all possible. Based on Matthew 5, we might also include making fun of another person.

2. Describe a time in your life where you felt like you were, "murdered in the spirit."

Accept and affirm your student's answer. Try to think of a time in your own life that you can share being hurt by somebody else's words.

3. What damage can the words we say cause? How have you hurt someone with your words?

Try to help your student see how much the words he/she says can hurt. When we are kids, we learn that "words will never hurt me," but the reality is that they do hurt. Think of a time when you have said something hurtful to a friend or family member.

4. Why is it difficult to not join in making fun of somebody else if others are? What should we do in that situation?

Accept and affirm your student's reasons. Help him/her think about alternatives to joining in. Read Proverbs 31:8 and discuss the importance of speaking up for others.

5. Read Romans 12:19-21. What are some ways that you could overcome evil?

Try to think of real life situations where there might be evil to overcome. Encourage your student to come up with ways that he/she can do good in their neighborhoods and schools even if somebody does something wrong to him/her.

Work together to define the following words:

- Murder—Intentional killing of another.
- Abortion—Killing an unborn baby.
- Euthanasia—Assisting someone else in suicide.

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 with it. Help me to love others in everything that I say and do. Amen.

Lesson 8.6 ~ Sixth Commandment

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

Dear God, be with us as we talk about the sixth commandment. Help us to be open as we discuss what can often be a difficult subject. Teach us your desires for us as we live our life. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.6 Sixth Commandment

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Matthew 5:27-32. Read through the Small Catechism—The Sixth Commandment and questions 55 to 58.

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

1. Why do you think talking about sex is such a difficult subject to talk about?

Accept and affirm your student's answer. If this is a difficult subject for you to talk to him/her about, let your student know what makes it difficult for you. Think back to when you were in middle school, what was it like for you then?

2. In regards to sexuality, what type of lifestyles do you see promoted in the media?

Discuss things that you might see in television. What does the media tell is right and wrong about things like having sex before marriage, divorce, or homosexuality? Also, ask your student, what type of lifestyle is encouraged in your school?

3. What damage can adultery have on a person or family?

There are lot of possibilities here. Encourage your student to come up with some possible answers. If you have encountered the damage it can cause first-hand in your family, share how that hurt. You might also bring up how adultery can cause the pain of a child growing up without parents around, how divorce hurts families, or even the physical damage an STD can cause.

4. What are some things that you can do now to help keep yourself pure?

Help your student think of ways that they can take steps to stay pure. Help him/her think of ideas of discussions he/she might need to have with a future boyfriend or girlfriend. Discuss the importance of also staying pure with what we watch and think about; most students first experience with pornography is in middle school.

Work together to define the following words:

- Adultery—Sexual relations with someone that is not your spouse.
- Divorce—Separation of a married couple.
- Temptation—A craving or desire for something that is wrong.

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

Dear Jesus, thank you for creating the gift of sex. Help me to learn to treat it the way you intended to be used. Help me to honor you with my body and to keep myself pure for my future spouse. Amen.

Lesson 8.7 ~ Seventh Commandment

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

Dear God, teach us to fear and love you above all things. Help us to trust you with our possessions; to trust that you will provide everything we need. Help us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to help our neighbor protect the things he owns. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.7 Seventh Commandment

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Luke 19:1-10. Read through the Seventh Commandment in the Small Catechism and questions 59 to 60.

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

1. If you could have any object in the world, what would it be and why?

Listen to your student's answer. Affirm his/her answer and share your own as well.

2. What are some examples of ways that somebody might steal?

Affirm your student's answer as he/she shares. We commonly think of stealing when it comes to taking somebody's possessions or stealing from a store. It's also important to include stealing music, movies or software by illegal downloads and cheating on our school work. It's even stealing if we are taking an idea that somebody else came up with (plagiarism).

3. Why is cheating on a test considered stealing?

When you cheat in school, it's taking somebody else's work that doesn't belong to you and claiming it as your own.

4. What do you think is the most common form of stealing amongst the people you know?

Listen to your student's answer and encourage him/her to think of all the possibilities of things that should be considered stealing. Share what's most common amongst your friends also.

5. We obviously shouldn't take things from our neighbor; what can we do for our neighbor to show the love of Jesus?

As we talk about this commandment, we should also include that God is asking us to help our neighbor improve and protect their possessions. How can we look out for our friends in school so that people aren't taking from them?

Work together to define the following words:

- Stealing—Illegal possession or gain of an item or idea, etc.
- Cheating—Borrowing, stealing thoughts, answers, ideas.
- Zacchaeus—Tax collector who stole but later gave to the poor.

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

Dear God, help me to love others as you have loved me. Help me to be honest about the things that I acquire and to do so always in a way that honors those around me. Thank you for the ways you have blessed me and help me to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Lesson 8.8 ~ Eighth Commandment

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

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us this opportunity to come together as a family and learn from your word. Thank you for the 10 Commandments. Forgive us as we fail to keep them and help us as we strive to follow them. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.8 Eighth Commandment

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Ephesians 4:25-32. Read the Small Catechism about the Eighth Commandment and questions 231-235.

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

1. Describe a time when you felt like you needed to lie about something.

Accept and affirm your student's answer. Share a time from your own life where you felt like you should lie about something.

2. When is it most difficult to not gossip?

Encourage your student to think of when it is most difficult to resist gossip. Are there certain groups of people that it is hard to not gossip around? Think of situations in your own life and share when it is most difficult for you.

3. Describe a time when your words hurt someone else.

Accept and affirm your student's answer. The hope with this question is to help us realize how much damage our words can cause. Refer back to the James lesson (6th grade) which also talked about a similar theme.

4. Read Proverbs 31:8-9. What are some situations in your life where you can defend your neighbor?

Encourage your student to come up with examples of situations where he/she might defend his/her neighbor. Help your student think through how he/she might do so in a difficult situation.

Work together to define the following words:

- False witness—Lying about or for someone.
- Neighbor—Anyone that you come in contact with.
- Gossip—Conversation about someone else's personal life.

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

Dear God, help me to always do what is right even when it is difficult. Help me to be careful with my words so that I always honor you and so I do not hurt my neighbor. Help me to speak the truth in love at all times. Amen.

Lesson 8.9 ~ Ninth & Tenth Commandments

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

Dear Father, as we finish our lessons on the 10 Commandments, remind us that these are given to us out of love. Help us to apply these to our lives not in order to have a relationship with you but because we have a relationship with you. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.9 Ninth & Tenth Commandments

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through 2 Samuel 11. Read the Small Catechism—Ninth and Tenth Commandments and questions 63-68.

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

1. What problems did David's coveting cause? What problems does coveting cause in our own life?

David's coveting led to lying, murder, and adultery. In our own life, it may not lead us to murder, but it does often lead us to be unhappy with the things we already have. We begin to be unhappy with how much God has or has not given us.

2. Read Matthew 20:1-16. Why are the workers in this parable upset? What does that teach us about coveting?

The workers are upset because the landowner gave the other workers the same amount even though they worked less. The workers got what they agreed to, yet they were envious because the landowner was generous. When we covet, we tend to be upset with how God is distributing his blessings.

3. What's the difference between wanting something and coveting something?

Encourage your student to define the difference. Wanting a new video game is not sinful, but if you want the game so bad that you have the desire to take that from your friend it is sinful. Coveting is a sinful desire for something else.

4. What are common things that you think people covet?

List several things that you think people covet. Encourage your student and add to his/her list. How many of these things could be related to simply coveting money?

5. Read Hebrews 13:5. What are some things in your life that you are thankful for?

List several things that you can be thankful for. Since this commandment is about learning to be content with what God has given us, the best way to learn to do so is to thank God for what he has given us.

Work together to define the following words:

- Covet—Wanting something so badly that it becomes a sinful desire.
- Want—Something you strongly desire.
- Content—Being okay with what you have or do not have.

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

Dear God, teach us to be content. Thank you for all the blessings that you have given me and remind me of them when I begin to want more. Help me to be thankful for what you have given to me instead of always wanting more. Amen.

Lesson 8.10 ~ Worship

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

Dear God, thank you for sending your son to pay the price for our sins. Help us to respond to that love in everything we say and do. You are an amazing God and we worship you because of that. Be with us as we go through our final lesson. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.10 Worship

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Romans 11:33-12:2.

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

1. What first comes to your mind when you think of worship? Do you think that's an accurate description of worship?

It seems that most people immediately think of music when talking about worship. Music is an incredible way that the Bible tells us to worship God, but music is not worship, it's one of the ways that we worship. If music is not what first comes to your mind, discuss those things and talk about how that fits with what the lesson has described as being worship.

2. How can you tell whether or not someone is worshipping?

The only way to tell that somebody is not worshipping is if they are sinning; sin can never be worship. Other than that, there really isn't a way to tell if somebody is worshipping. People can pretend they are worshipping on the outside and thinking about cheeseburgers on the inside. People could also be cleaning a bathroom and doing it for the glory of God and we may never know. Worship is something that is based on the heart and our response to God's love.

3. What are some ways that you like to worship?

There are lots of ways to worship—singing, playing guitar, writing, praying, and meditating. There also could be reading and studying the Bible, going to church, retreats, and many more. Share the ways that you enjoy using to express your worship of God.

4. How can something like doing your homework be considered worship?

Your student may answer by thinking about God while doing your homework or writing about Jesus for writing assignments. Try to encourage your student to consider that being the best student he/she can be as worship. If we respond to God's love by trying to honor him with our lives, that includes working hard at school.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What are some ways that we can honor God with our body?

There are lots of possibilities that could end up fitting here. Anytime that we make good choices and do what is right we are honoring God with our bodies. This could be things like loving others, obeying our parents, or giving to the needy. We can also honor God with our bodies by looking to grow our relationship with God by going to church, reading the Bible, or praying.

Work together to define the following words:

- Worship—Our response to God for who He is and what He's done.
- Music—One of the ways that we can worship God.
- Meditating—Thinking deeply about God and His word.

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

Dear Jesus, help me to respond to your love in everything that I do. Help me to worship when I'm at church and when I'm at home. Help me to worship by using my gifts, by being a good student, and by honoring my parents. Help me to remember that worship is anything and everything that I do for your glory. Amen.

Lesson 8.11 ~ Vocation

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

Dear God, help us to understand how you have called each of us. Help me to understand my calling as a parent to serve you. Help us to understand what it looks like to live out our faith in all the places that you have put us. Amen.

2. **Video—8.11 Vocation**

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through Ephesians 2:8-10.

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

1. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Encourage your student to think of ideas of what he/she would like to be. Share what you wanted to be when you were in middle school.

2. List off jobs that are important. How do those jobs serve other people?

No matter what job a person has, God uses a person in that place to serve him and serve others. A police officer loves others by protecting people from crime. A garbage man loves others by helping get rid of trash. A cook serves by baking delicious food. A pastor loves by teaching the Bible. All jobs, that are not sinful, are important and God calls people to all of them.

3. Where has God placed you that you can serve him and the people around you?

Part of understanding how God has called us is knowing where God has placed us right now. Encourage your student to think of the places that God has put him/her. How do we serve God and our neighbors in our school? In our neighborhood? On our sports team? In our church? These are all places God has called us to.

4. In Ephesians 2:10, what does it mean that we are “created in Christ Jesus to do good works”?

This verse is saying that while we are not saved by our works; our works are important because God created us to love Him and love others in our actions. Our parents do good works as they love us and raise us. Our teachers do good as they teach us. We do good as we love those around us.

Work together to define the following words:

- Good works—Our response to God by loving Him and loving others.
- Calling—Where God has placed us to serve Him.
- Vocation—A calling.

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

Dear Jesus, help me to understand that you have called me. You have called me to serve you as a student. You have called me to serve you as a son/daughter. You have called me to serve you in all the places that you have put me. Help me to do good as I remember this important truth, that you have called me. Amen.

Lesson 8.12 ~ Office of the Keys

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

Dear God, as we talk about the Office of the Keys, which may not be something we usually talk about, help us understand. Help us to see in your word the power that you have given us as Christians and help us to understand our role in sharing the Gospel. Amen.

2. **Video**—8.12 Office of the Keys

3. **Scripture Search**—Read through John 20:22-23.

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

1. What are some different ways you might hear about forgiveness?

Encourage your student to come up with a variety of ways like reading the Bible, through sermons, through conversation, or in baptism and communion.

2. What's the difference between sharing with somebody the law and sharing with them the Gospel?

When we share the law, we are sharing that a person is sinful; that he/she is guilty of not living up to God's standards. The law always shows that people are in need of a Savior. When we share the Gospel, we are sharing grace and forgiveness. We are sharing that even though we sin, that Jesus sacrificed his life for us.

3. How do we know when we should share law and when we should share Gospel with somebody?

When somebody needs to be reminded of his/her sin, should that person hear the law. If somebody doesn't think he/she is sinful, should he/she continue to hear the law. When somebody realizes he/she is sinful, he/she should then hear the Gospel.

4. Who are people in your life that you could share your faith with?

Encourage your student to come up with people in his/her life that need to hear the truth of the Gospel. Add people in your own life to the list as well.

Work together to define the following words:

- Office—A job or role.
- Keys—Lock and unlock things.
- Office of the Keys—Our job as Christians to share the forgiveness of sins.

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

Dear God, thank you so much for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. There are so many ways He works in my life and I am thankful for that. Continue to guide, empower, and help me make the right decisions and help me to change my heart when I make the wrong decisions. Amen.

8th Grade Conversation Topics

Student Name: _____

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 8.1 First Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.2 Second Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.3 Third Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.4 Fourth Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.5 Fifth Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.6 Sixth Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.7 Seventh Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.8 Eighth Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.9 Ninth & Tenth Commandment
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.10 Worship
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.11 Vocation
Discussion Date: _____ | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| 8.12 Office of the Keys
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 of Trinity's Crossroads Ministry, please contact Pastor Anders.

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