

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 4:1-11

SESSION SUMMARY

During the last session, we encountered Eli, the priest who shepherded Samuel. While Eli might've followed God, this session teaches us that his sons did not. Hophni and Phineas did not honor God, and the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines. In this session, we'll see that when we place our faith in anything or anyone besides God, we'll face defeat. Here are the main ideas:

- There's no salvation apart from God (1 Sam. 4:1-5).
- There's only defeat apart from God (1 Sam. 4:6-11).

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think it's sometimes difficult for us to go to God when things are good? Why do you think it can be easier to cry out to Him when things are tough?
- When are we tempted to treat God as only a means to get what we want? How can our family guard our hearts against this?
- What kind of thoughts and feelings does our family have when we remember that God is always with us?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Invite each person to share something, or a few things, he or she tends to rely on instead of God. These things (or people!) are likely what we reach for first when life is hard. While these things and people are not bad, it's not good for us to put our faith in something or someone other than God. Brainstorm some ways you can remember to put your faith in God, even in the areas where you struggle to do so most.