

THE REAL GOD

Family
DEVOTIONAL

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

 **LIVING**
ON THE EDGE™

The Real God: Family Devotional Video Discussion Guide

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About Living on the Edge

Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians.

It was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram. It has since grown into an international discipleship ministry with a clear vision: to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

Living on the Edge creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.

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THE REAL GOD FAMILY DEVOTIONAL REQUIRES THE USE OF VIDEO AND PRINTOUTS

You can stream video and download printouts for FREE by following the directions below. You can also order a DVD at (888) 333-6003 or
LivingontheEdge.org.



STREAM AND DOWNLOAD FOR FREE AT:

LivingontheEdge.org/TheRealGod

3 EASY STEPS

1

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Go to LivingontheEdge.org/TheRealGod and complete the steps to create your FREE account.

2

GET IMMEDIATE ACCESS

You will be connected to the additional resources you will need to supplement this discussion guide.

3

ACCESS ANYTIME

Login to your account anytime by clicking on the STORE, and clicking on MY ACCOUNT/MEMBERSHIP.





HOW TO

Use This Resource

GETTING STARTED

Way to Go!

The fact that you have this resource in your hands proves that you care about the spiritual life of your family. Let's face it, it's difficult to have significant and intentional conversations. This devotional can help.

Make it a goal to RECLAIM ONE DINNER A WEEK. Watch a short video and talk about it over dinner as a family. Then, throughout the week, we've provided you with a ton of ideas that will help your family engage that week's topic.

You may not realize it, but your entire life is built on a single foundation. Every thought and attitude, decision and goal; your relationships and hobbies and career choices; even how you handle success and deal with setbacks ... all of these things rest upon one thing.

The truth is, what you think about God is the most important thing about you. Here are two questions for you to consider:

Who do you think God is?

What do you think God thinks about when He thinks of you?

It's impossible to be human and not have some concept of God, and the thoughts we have about God make a real difference in our lives. If you think God wants to punish humanity, you'll live in constant fear. If you believe God is good, you'll trust Him even when life gets tough.

What you think about God shapes your whole relationship with Him. In addition, what you believe God thinks about you determines how close you will grow toward Him. This is true for you, and for everyone in your family.

In this devotional, you'll explore seven characteristics of God and get to know Him as He really is. The teachings in these videos are based on God's Word—not popular opinion or clever ideas. In addition to the videos, this guide will help you have meaningful conversations with your kids as you explore God as He really is.

Praying for your family's spiritual growth,

LIVING ON THE EDGE TEAM

Helping Christians Live Like Christians

HOW TO

Use This Resource

PRAY

God wants to hear from you, and He wants to help! Come to God in humility, ask Him to soften your heart and clear your mind so that you can hear Him speak.

PREPARE

Plan on spending 10 minutes a week to look over the session before you watch the video together as a family. During your PREP time, you should read through the session, watch the video, select some discussion questions, and choose some optional activities for the rest of the week. Each session has five sections:

PREP: This section contains a quick look into the topic for the session.

WATCH: This section reminds you to watch the video! (We told you we made this easy!)

TALK: This section contains some “conversation starter” questions for immediately after your family watches the video. We’ve provided a ton—probably more than you can use—so choose the few that work best for your family.

DO: This section contains more ideas to help your family “circle back around” to the topic each day during the week. It will be great if your family only watches the videos followed by a conversation. It will be BETTER if you can reinforce the topic throughout the week. Again, choose the activities that work best for your family.

TAKEAWAY: This page contains a few copies of the topic, Big Idea, and Key Verse. Our suggestion is that you would print this out, and put them in places where you will see them throughout the week. You might put them on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or on the wall next to the door to the garage. One family puts them on the video game console so the kids read it before they play games!

Download this TAKEAWAY page here: LivingontheEdge.org/TheRealGod, then LOGIN.

Things to Keep in Mind

1. RELAX AND BE REALISTIC.

You don't need to be perfect—no parent is. Neither do you need to be an expert on the Bible—no parent is. Ask God for His help! The Creator of the universe will help you. As a parent, you are the primary influence in your kids' spiritual lives. This is a big time responsibility, but don't let that stress you out! **YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS!** Literally, God chose you to be a parent to your kids. God will be with you as you grow closer to Jesus and help your kids do the same.

2. OWN IT.

Use your own words. Don't feel like you need to read the questions off the page. It's more natural to ask questions how you want to ask them.

3. DON'T GIVE UP.

Don't be discouraged if your kids don't "get it" right away. Doing some of the other activities during the week can help your kids understand more about God's character. Parenting, and learning about God, is a process! Much of what you do today will plant a seed for the future. If you have pre-teens or teens, they often show very little interest, even when they are engaging on the inside. Don't be discouraged if a conversation or activity doesn't go well—that's OK! It's difficult to have significant conversations and they aren't all going to be "perfect."

4. BE CONSISTENT.

The best learning happens when we fall into a predictable rhythm. Life is busy, but don't let that keep you from your family devotions. There will always be a million reasons to skip a week. To put it simply: don't.

5. HAVE FUN!

Keep things upbeat and positive. If your conversations wander away from your plans, that's OK. The goal is to have great conversations about our great God!



SEEKING *God*

SESSION 1



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance. Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

Goodness: God is good, all the time

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)

Sovereignty: God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)

Holiness: God is set apart from His creation, perfect and independent.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

Wisdom: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!" (Romans 11:33 NLT)

Justice: Life is not always fair; God is.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." (Psalm 50:6 NLT)

Love: God's love will always find us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV)

Faithfulness: God never breaks His promises.

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. (Psalm 33:4 NIV)



Big Idea:

GOD LONGS FOR US TO SEE HIM—AS HE REALLY IS.

Many people see God as a cosmic vending machine that will give us whatever we want. Truth is, God loves us too much to give what we want; He gives us what we need.



Key Verse:

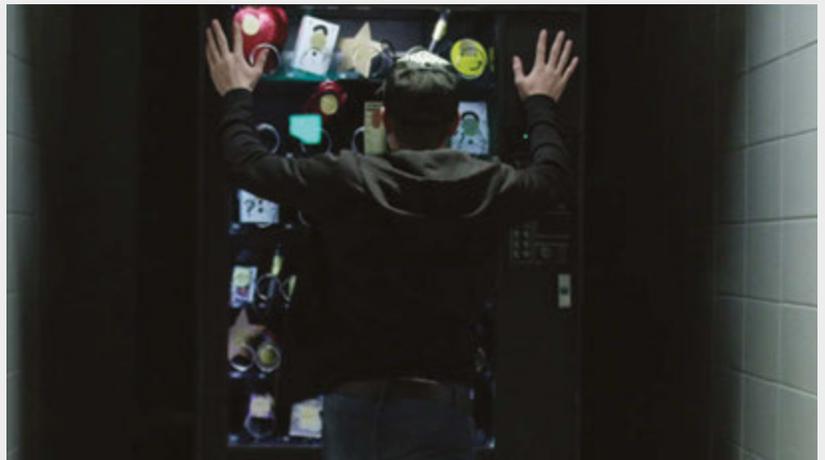
JEREMIAH 29:13 (NLT)

If you look for me wholeheartedly,
you will find me.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



VENDING MACHINE



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Even though the first two kids got what they wanted from the vending machine, they ended up being very frustrated. Why do you think this happened?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Whom do you imagine God is? Pick five words that you think best describe God and write them down. Tell us what they mean and why you picked them.
- If God loves to give us good things, why isn't He like a vending machine?
- If God is always there for us, why does it sometimes feel like He's far away?
- The narrator ends the story by saying, "Maybe it's better if we let God tell us who He is and base our picture of Him on what He says about Himself." In your opinion, how can we let this happen?
- What do other people think is true about you? Why does that matter to your relationship with them?
- The narrator said, "What you think about God is the most important thing about you." Why do you think this is true? Why did He say this?

(This may be a tough question for your kids. Take a moment to let it "soak" in and then share your response. The truth is, what we think about God impacts every attitude, thought, and action we take. If we believe God is loving, then we won't let our guilt keep us from Him. If we believe God doesn't care about us, we'll live according to our own standard.)



Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

Print the **"TAKEAWAY"** sheet (included in this guide) and put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.

Morning Questions (at breakfast or on the ride to school) (pick one for each morning):
If you could have anything from God, what would it be? How would you feel if you never got it?
God knows the difference between our needs and our wants ... what is one thing you absolutely need from God today?

Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time (pick one for each evening):

- The narrator said, "What if God had a purpose for you that was bigger than things?"
What do you think that purpose might be?
- Which of the following phrases best describes your spiritual journey right now? Why?
 - (a) I feel close to God.
 - (b) I don't think about God unless I want something.
 - (c) I wonder if God loves me just as I am.
 - (d) I feel like I'm growing.
 - (e) I feel like I'm struggling.
 - (f) I love God, but I want to know more about Him.

Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of your how you've viewed God and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: What do you love most about your relationship with God? What is your favorite "thing" that you experience as a child of God? Did you ever have a false and maybe funny view of God that was later corrected?

Explore the characteristics of God. This activity will give your kids a preview of what's to come.
Instructions: Print out one copy for everyone in your family. Color in each of the words; make sure one is different from the others AND each one must use the color blue. When you are finished, cut along the dotted lines.

SAY: "Every week we are going to watch a video to learn what God says about who He is. Each attribute is different from the others, but they all are a part of who God is."

SAY:

- Pick one characteristic and explain what you think it means.
- Pick one characteristic that you want to learn more about.
- Put the seven characteristics in order from most important to least important.
(Say: Truth is, all of these are equally important, and we are going to look at one every week for the next seven weeks.)

If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

- God longs for us to see Him—as He really is.
- "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." (Jeremiah 29:13 NLT)
- I love that you want to know more about God. I'm excited that we are on this journey together as a family to explore God's characteristics together!
- God isn't a vending machine that gives us what we want; God gives us what we need.
- God is always there for us and He loves to give good things.

Seven Characteristics of the Real God

LOVE

WISE

SOVEREIGN

GOOD

JUST

HOLY

INSTRUCTIONS:

Print out one copy for everyone in your family. Color in each of the words, make sure one is different from the others AND each one must use the color blue. When you are finished, cut along the dotted lines.

FAITHFUL



Takeaway

Print this out, put it in a place where your family can read it once or twice a day.



SEEKING GOD

God longs for us to see Him
– as He really is.

*“If you look for me wholeheartedly,
you will find me.”*

(Jeremiah 29:13 NLT)



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