

## ONE CONVERSATION

***Parents:** Toward the end of Romans 8, Paul asks an important rhetorical question, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God demonstrated once and for all that He is not opposed to us—He is for us. What does it mean, however, for God to be truly for us? Does it mean that He will spare us from the consequences of our foolish actions? Take a minute and think about someone who cares about you deeply, perhaps a close friend or parent. Does this person always make life easy on you? Far from making life easy on us, those who care the most about us are often the most difficult on us because they love us. While God will always be for us, that doesn’t mean He won’t ever oppose us. While faith in Christ forever frees us from eternal punishment, God’s love sometimes compels Him to let us face the consequences of our sin. He will even sometimes purposefully inflict earthly punishment on us. We see this pattern again and again in the Book of Judges. Israel begins worshiping idols and God punishes them through the surrounding nations.*

*Read Judges 2:11-19 and discuss this passage. As your son or daughter begins studying the Book of Judges, they will see that the punishment God inflicts upon His people is never out of spite or revenge, but always rooted in His faithfulness and motivated by His desire for us to know and love Him more.*

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*God loves His people enough to oppose them.*

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read Joshua 2:11-19 again. As you read, consider how Israel’s cycle of sin relates to your daily life. Are there any patterns of sin that you seem to keep falling back into? Ask God to break the cycle of sin in your life so that you would no longer be enslaved to it. If there are persistent cycles of sin in your life that keep coming up, consider confessing this to a trusted Christian friend or mentor and asking for accountability in fighting it.
- › **Memorize:** Judges 2:18
- › **Pray:** Are there patterns of sin in your heart and life that feel like they are almost unbreakable? Spend some time confessing these sin patterns to God, admitting your inability to overcome them on your own. Ask God to soften your heart to His Spirit so that you hate the sin that is keeping you from Him. Look to Christ for the strength and grace necessary to overcome patterns of sin.