

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next—Through Strong Heart Connections

PARENTS PAGE

September 30—October 3, 2009

The Second Coming—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a teenager goes first): When it's your turn, say: **When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph's lives were never the same. In a similar way, we celebrate the fact that since you were born, our lives have never been the same. For example . . .**

2. Read Scripture: Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read 1 Corinthians 15:16-20 and 1 Peter 1:3-4. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

Truth

- The certainty of Christ's return fills believers with hope.

Untruths

- The idea of a second coming is just another religious fairy tale.
- Once we die, that's it. There is no such thing as eternal life.
- You have to live for the moment and not worry too much about the future.

3. Explore Scripture: Read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:16-20. Say: **If Christ did not rise from the dead, there is no salvation and no second coming.** Ask: **How did Paul describe our situation if Christ were still dead?** (*Examples: our faith is worthless, we're still in sin, the dead have perished, we should be pitied, and so forth.*) Emphasize that we would be hopeless without Jesus' resurrection and the hope of His return. Say: **But the good news is, Christ did rise and He is coming again.** Ask: **As a result, what is our situation today?** Remind family members that Jesus is on His throne and is preparing to return for believers. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. Point out that Christ's resurrection, return, and preparations for us in heaven give us hope here on earth. Invite your family to embrace that hope.

4. Think It Through: A teenager will lead this step.

5. Nail It Down: Ask: **If a very important guest was scheduled to arrive at our home at a particular time, what would we do to straighten the house before the guest arrived?** Discuss responses. Say: **Jesus' return will be a complete surprise. The Bible says it will happen when we least expect it. That means that each day we need to keep our houses—our lives—in order for His return.**

6. Pray: A teenager will lead this prayer.

7. Blessing: Say: **I bless this family for watching daily for the return of the Son of God.**

Parent Tip: If parents try to make children into what they cannot be, misery for both parent and child can be the only result. The alternative is to join God in helping your teens discover their gifts and talents so you can encourage the unique bent He has given each one.