

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

Revelation 1:9-20

Session Summary

What's the proper response to Jesus' glory? To fall face down in surrender, to recognize His holy majesty, and to sense that you are doomed apart from His grace. That was John's response to Jesus' glory. And yet, Jesus reached down to lift him up. It's amazing that the Lord of glory reaches down with love, that He has all power in His hands and yet uses them with gentle care. It reminds us of Psalm 103 – The Lord has compassion on those who fear Him, for He knows our frame, that we are dust (Ps. 103:13-14). Christ's presence felt lethal, but His touch was life-giving.

We all have our own perspective of Jesus, and each of us may emphasize one attribute over another. Some may primarily think of Jesus' glory and majesty, while others may primarily think of His mercy and compassion. Both perspectives are true, but they need to be held together. If we think only of His majesty, we may operate in fear and be hesitant to approach God. If we think only of His mercy, we may lose reverence and awe for God. Our perspective affects our relationship with God and with others. When we magnify His majesty over mercy, we may be less merciful toward others, thinking we are being like Jesus. When we magnify His mercy over His majesty, we may be less likely to warn someone who is going astray or not taking their sins seriously. Revelation shows us a Jesus who is both majestic in holiness and full of mercy.

- Do we tend to think of Jesus as majestic or as merciful? Why?
- How can we hold both Jesus' attributes in tension and avoid emphasizing one attribute over another?
- How can a balanced view of Jesus make us more balanced people?
- How does the fear of the Lord help you overcome lesser fears?

Challenge each person to perform an activity that requires balance. It could be riding a bike, doing a hand stand, walking on a balance beam, etc. Then, discuss the importance of having a balanced view of God. We should not overemphasize His holiness to the diminishing of His grace, or emphasize His mercy to the belittling of His righteousness. Also, discuss how the cross of Jesus Christ is the place where all things are held in perfect tension.