

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 John 2:1-6

## Session Summary

When we sin, Jesus doesn't excuse it or try to downplay it. He doesn't shift blame. No, Jesus is righteous. He can't do such things. But for every failure and shortcoming in us, Jesus stands before the Father and says, "I paid for that." When Satan brings accusation after accusation, Jesus says, "I paid for that." Nothing sticks because the Judge, Attorney, and Substitute are one, and they say together, "Not guilty."

When we deserved judgment, Jesus took our place as an "atoning sacrifice" (v. 2). When we sin, He advocates for us despite the fact that our sins are against Him (v. 1). If there's ever a doubt that God loves you, ever a questioning of His unending affection, may we remind our hearts again of these things. As I sing to my children almost every night, "Jesus loves me, this *I know*..." We can love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Since His love was perfect toward us, the love of God can now be perfected in us (v. 5). John's hope was that we would obey God (v. 1), but he sought to accomplish that by showing us why we should love God. It is only when we love God that we will truly obey Him. Since the reasons to love Him are many, the motivation to obey Him is secure.

- Why is it important that we do not confuse God's mercy for not taking sin seriously?
- How is it comforting to know that Jesus Himself is our advocate and defender?
- How can we show our love for God on a daily basis?
- How should God's love affect the way we treat one another?

God demonstrated His love through sacrifice. Love must be shown through action. Challenge each family member to find three ways to show love in action this week. It could be at home, at school, or at church. Every night, pray as a family specifically to thank God for the love He has shown us through the cross.