



For the Week of July 1, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers  
good news...eternally secure

Life Notes for Families

## Introductions

We hope you're having a great time learning about Jesus together as a family. Whether you have lots of family members or just a few spending time together, we pray you're having fun and noticing the difference that living with Jesus - *together* - can make. We all have our own relationships with God, but we also share a relationship with those we love. Thanks for helping grow this important relationship!

### John 10:22-30 (from the *NIV* and *The Message*)

This week's sermon teaches us that we are secure - eternally secure in Jesus. But sometimes we don't feel secure. And sometimes we try to take care of life on our own to try and make sure life gives us what we want. Let's explore what it means to really feel safe and secure.

As a family, read through the dialogue of John 10:22-30.

From the *NIV*

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him and spoke.

Jews: *"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."*

Jesus: *"I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."*

From *The Message*

They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch when the Jews, circling him said these words.

Jews: *"How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out."*

Jesus: *"I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind."*

## safe and secure...forever

This week, we're going to concentrate on what makes us feel safe and secure...and what makes us feel insecure, unsafe or afraid. So grab a few big pieces of paper or a poster, and begin to make a list! The following questions are just different ways to get to some good, honest answers. Try hard to welcome all answers without questioning. See what you learn about everyone on the family.

An "examen" question to explore ("examen" means we take a look at both sides of a question). (There are several questions for each part, just to help you dialogue.)

Examen: *When do you feel the most safe or secure? What or who is present? What is going on when you feel safe? What does "safe" look like for you? Why do these situations or people make you feel safe?*

*When do you feel the least safe or secure? Who or what is absent? What is going on when you feel insecure or unsafe? What does "unsafe" look like for you? Why do these situations or people make you feel unsafe?*

After each person has had a chance to share, ask family members if there is anything else they can think of for themselves...or for other members of the family. Sometimes the people who know us best see things that we don't see.

*Now think through the safest, most secure place you could possibly imagine...what would that place or situation look like for you?*

If your children are old enough to think a bit abstractly, ask this question:

Examen: *When/in what situations are you a safe person for other people?  
When/in what situations are you not a very safe person for other people?*

These questions should provide some good conversation throughout the week. Either at dinner or at bedtime on several different days, ask the question:

Examen: *When did you feel the most safe and secure today and why?  
When did you feel the least safe and secure today and why?*

Then read the following together and answer the last question. By the end of the week, see what you've learned together.

*"...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38,39)*

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30)*

*How can what God's promises us help us feel safe and secure each day...in any situation?*