Getting Started

Share a story about willful disobedience—maybe a time you yourself did something you knew was wrong, maybe a time one of your children did, maybe a time it was someone you knew. Describe people's reactions.

> Why is it worse when a person does something wrong on purpose rather than by accident?

Into the Bible

Here are two stories about adultery: Genesis 38 and 2 Samuel 11-12.

> Describe how the sin happened. What difference do you perceive between Judah and David in terms of *how* they fell into sin?
>
> What, if any, clues do you find that their sins were different in how they affected them? What were the consequences?

Read Luke 12:47-48. Why would the one servant receive a worse beating than the other?

Consider Luke 12:10. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? (You may want to consult a study Bible.)

> How would continuing in sin make a heart inhospitable to the Holy Spirit?
>
> Does the prospect frighten you? Why or why not?

The account of Paul's conversion is recorded in Acts 9. Paul never got over the fact that he had been a persecutor of the church and that Jesus had turned him around. What does Paul's experience teach you about God's forgiveness?

Digging Deeper

What do you think about the idea of some sins being more damaging than others? Are you in the all-sin-is-sin camp, and so don't like the idea? Are you in the God-forgives-all-sins-so what's-the-big-deal camp, and so don't see why it matters all that much?

> How does careful attention to your Christian life figure into your answer? How does honoring the Lord with your obedience figure in?