



## **The Catholic Youth Community of St. John Neumann**

Dear Parents,

We live in a day and age where we can outsource anything. If your teenager needs help in school, you can call a tutor. If your teenager needs help with sports, you can call a coach. You can get help for anything and everything under the sun! Sometimes this extra help will cost you money, but sometimes it's free from the kindness and concern of family and friends – that's the best kind of help!

You yourself may need some help from time to time. You might ask your own parents for some parenting advice, call a friend to do you a favor and pick the kids up from school, or get a babysitter on a Friday night so you can have an evening out. It's really great that as parents you have so much help available to you, but there is one thing that you can't outsource.... and that is your role as the shepherd of your teen's heart. It is YOUR job to pass on the faith to your children. Others can help you with that big job, of course, but it is YOUR job.

In the journey of raising teenagers, your role as a faith guide is truly remarkable. Your actions, conversations, and genuine love make a lasting impact on your teens' spiritual growth. Embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and know that your efforts in passing on faith are shaping resilient and compassionate individuals that the world desperately needs.

But maybe it's become difficult or awkward lately to have faith conversations with your teen as they have gotten older. How do you start or restart having these conversations? Well, like anything, you have to get over the awkwardness and just commit to doing it. But you also can't just start on day one with some really deep conversations either - talk about awkward!

This week's resource can help you begin the healthy habit of having faith conversations with your teen. These "30 Prompts to Start Faith Conversations" can help you do just that! Some of the prompts have Scriptural references, while others will simply help reveal your teen's heart and imagination – none will be embarrassing or too deep to answer. What it will do is create an opportune time for you to have informal conversations about God and Jesus to foster connection rather than offer direction or correction. Ask one of these "faith prompts" each day or a couple of times a week, at bedtime or at the dinner table - or how about on the car ride to school? Hopefully, this will get you and your teen in the habit of talking about things of faith so that future conversations will feel natural and easier to have.

You have an opportunity to speak into the hearts of your teens and to pass on the great gift of our faith. I encourage you today to seize this opportunity! Let me know if this resource is helpful to you in developing the faith conversation habit!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Gregory Curran'.



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JCurran@SJNAustin.org

# 30

## PROMPTS

to inspire

# SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS



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# 30 PROMPTS to inspire

## SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS



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### WHAT IS IT?

During adolescence, the abstract muscle comes “online,” so your teen begins to form their own ideas and opinions, like a toddler learning to walk, including the subject of faith. So I created "30 Prompts. 30 Spiritual Conversations" as part of St. John Neumann's Online Parent Ministry to give you **insight into their thoughts and feelings about *life, God, Jesus, and themselves.***

Some of the prompts have Scriptural references, while others simply reveal their heart and imagination. The goal...create an opportune time for an informal conversation about God and Jesus ***to foster connection rather than offer direction or correction.***

### HOW TO USE IT:

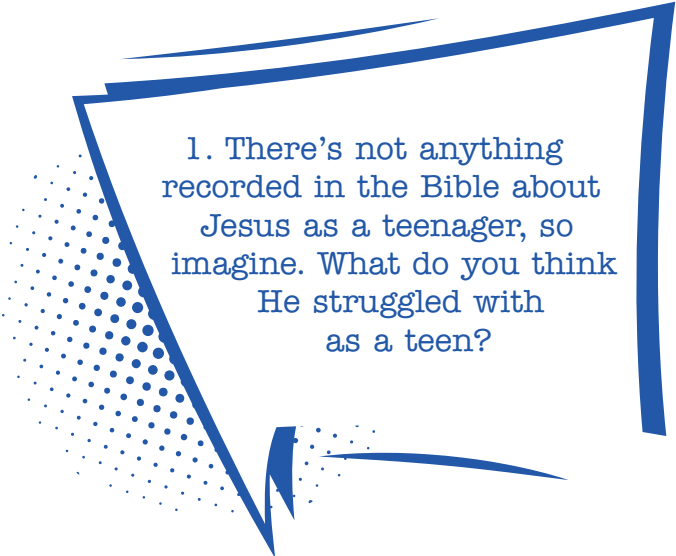
There are multiple ways to use ***30 Prompts. 30 Spiritual Conversations.*** Pick the one that best fits your family, or create your own! And if you do modify this resource, please let me know what you did and how did it go!

- Print and cut the Quote Bubbles. Let your teenager draw one out of the bag on the nights you have dinner around the table, on the way, to school, or in the evening before bed.
- Spend a few weeks to go down the list working the question into casual conversation. Mark off each question as you go.

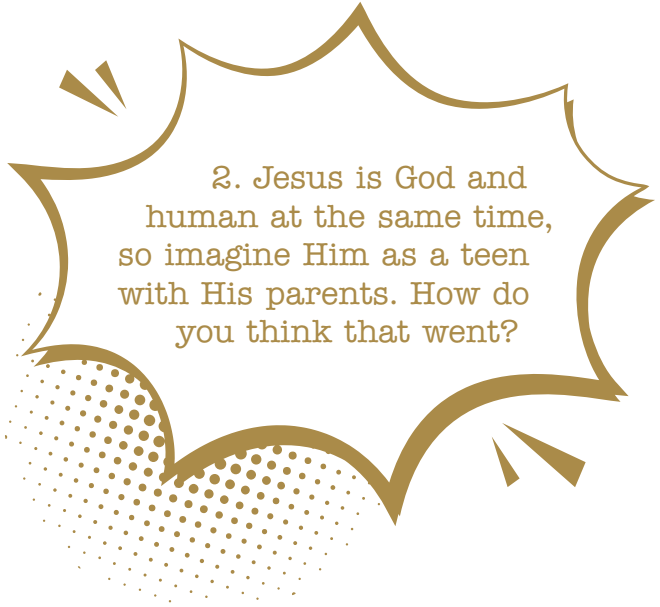
## 30 PROMPTS · 30 SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

1. There's not anything recorded in the Bible about Jesus as a teenager, so imagine. What do you think He struggled with as a teen?
2. Jesus is God and human at the same time, so imagine Him as a teen with His parents. How do you think that went?
3. Imagine if God joined us for dinner. What would you want to ask Him?
4. If God could change one thing at your school, what would you want it to be and why?
5. Name one of your favorite women from the Bible. Why do you like her?
6. Imagine Jesus with you at school. If He could help you with one thing, what would it be and why?
7. If God were president of our country, what should be the first thing He changes?
8. What is your favorite story in the Bible? Why?
9. What is your least favorite story in the Bible? Why?
10. If cars existed during Jesus' day, what car do you think He would have driven?
11. Name one of your favorite men from the Bible. Why do you like him?
12. God names all the stars and puts them in place (**Isaiah 40:26**). How many stars do you think exist? If He asked you to name one, what would it be?
13. If technology existed during Jesus' day, which piece of tech do you think He would like best?
14. If you could live during a time from the Bible (Genesis to Revelation), which one would you pick and why?
15. Let's say you go to school, and Jesus gets to be one of your teachers. Which class do you hope He gets to teach?
16. If God could eradicate one problem in the world and He asked you what it should be, what would you pick and why?
17. Describe Jesus in 3 words.
18. If God asked you to go on a road trip and pick the place, where would you go?
19. The Bible has poetry, songs, history, personal letters, and more. Which type of literature do you like best?
20. What part of the Bible seems to be the most confusing?
21. God made every part of you (**Psalms 139**). If you two were hanging out and He asked you to name your favorite part, what would you say? If He could change one part of you, what would it be and why?
22. God knows all things, but if you wanted Him to forget one thing, what would it be?
23. If today's genres existed back in Jesus' day, what kind of music do you think He would like?
24. If you knew God wanted to hang out with your friends, who would you invite, and where would you go?
25. If God took you back in time to change a part of history, where would you go and why?
26. Let's say Jesus visits our country. Where should He go first?
27. God is so powerful that He tells the oceans where to stop (**Proverbs 8:29, Psalm 104:9**). If He asked you where to use that power next, how would you answer?
28. If sports existed back in Jesus' day, which sport do you think he would play and why?
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30. If Jesus could remove pressure or stress instantly, what would you want Him to do?

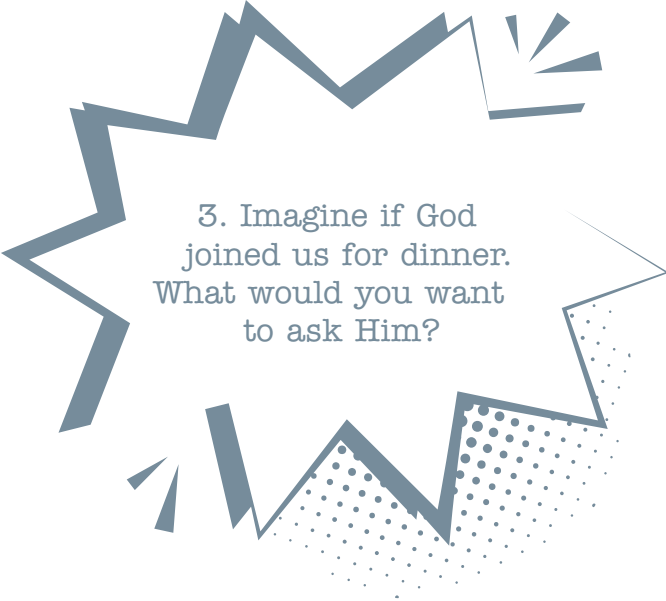




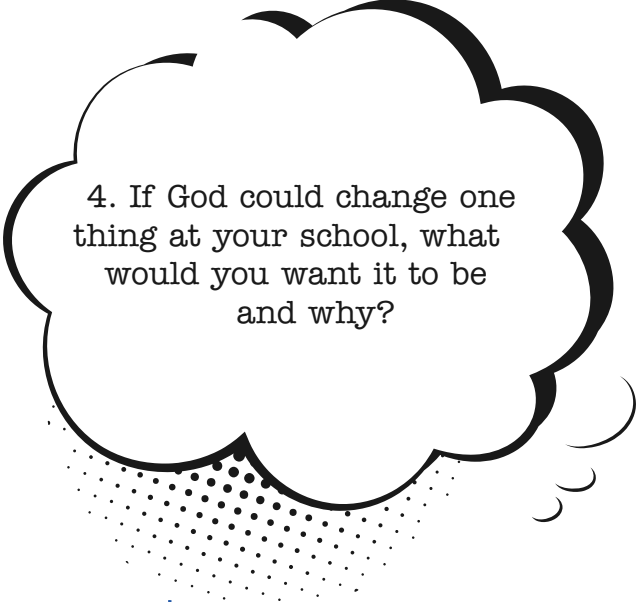
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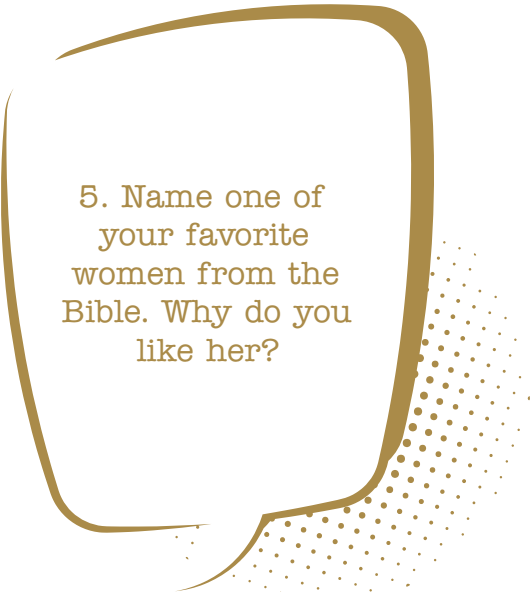
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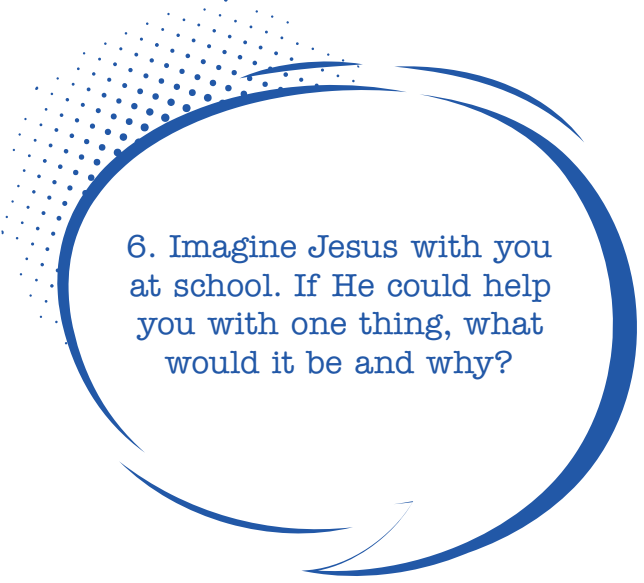
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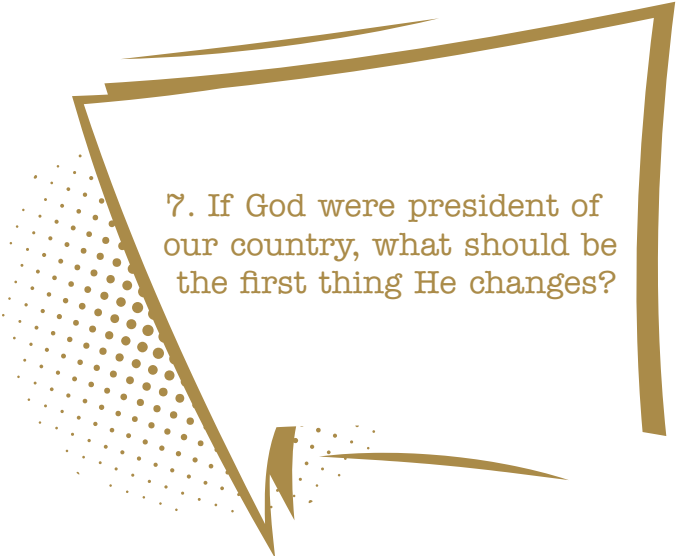
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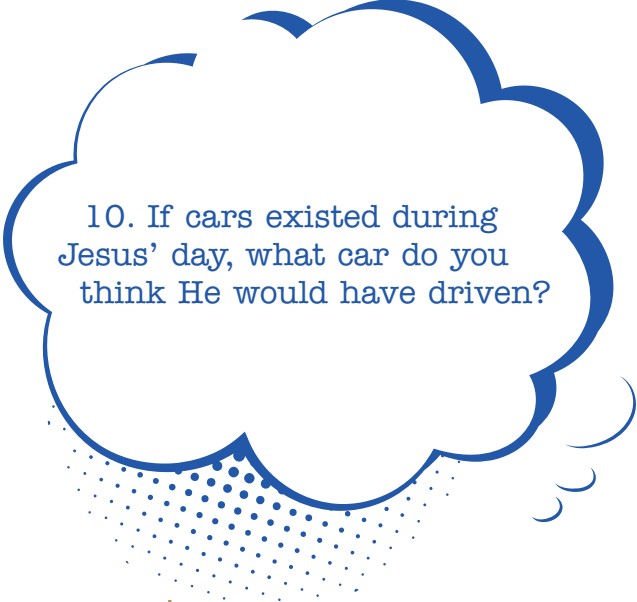
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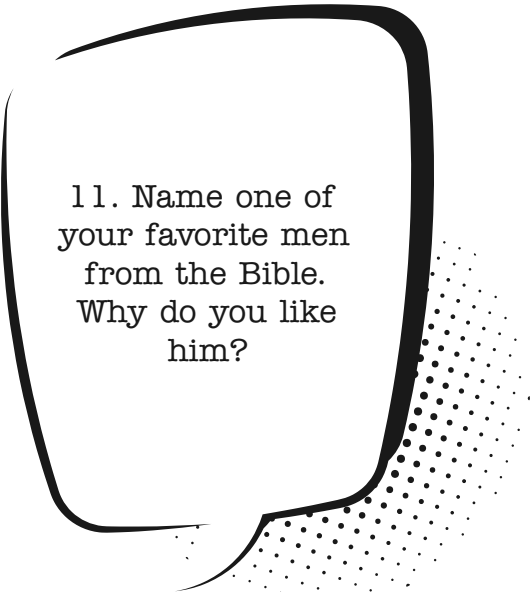
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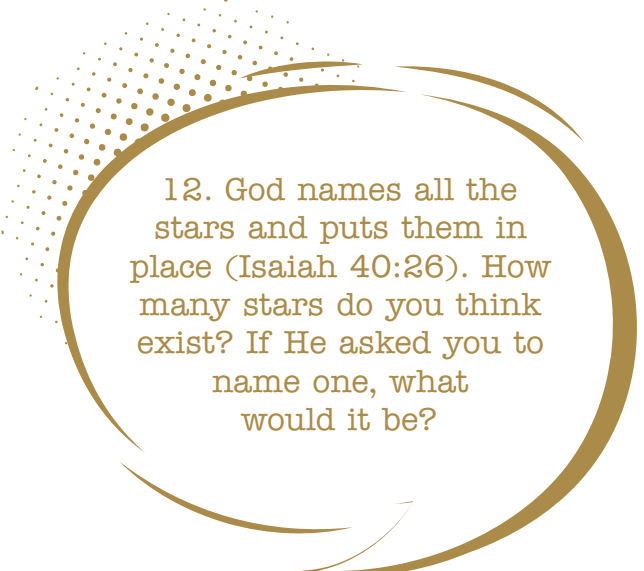
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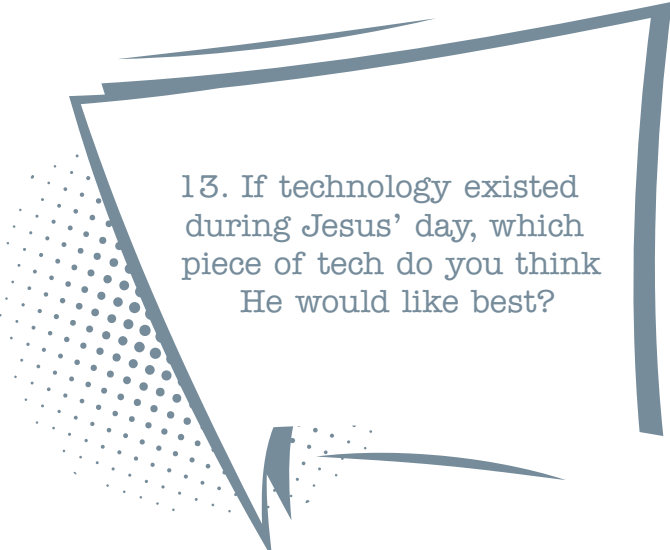
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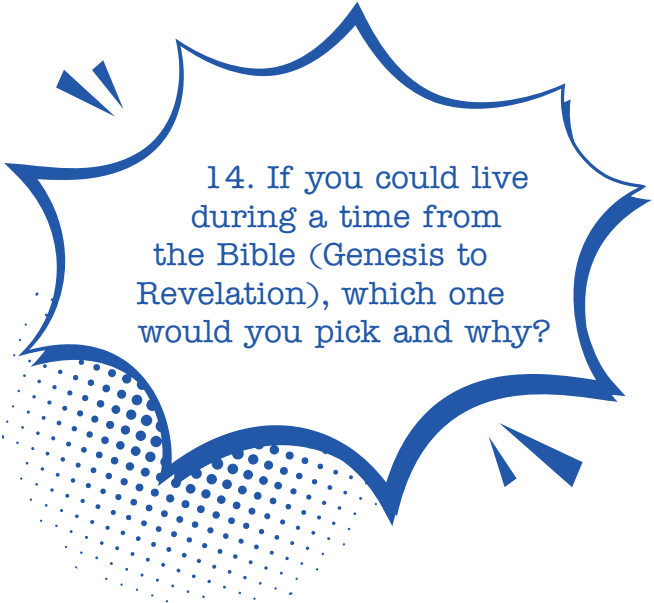
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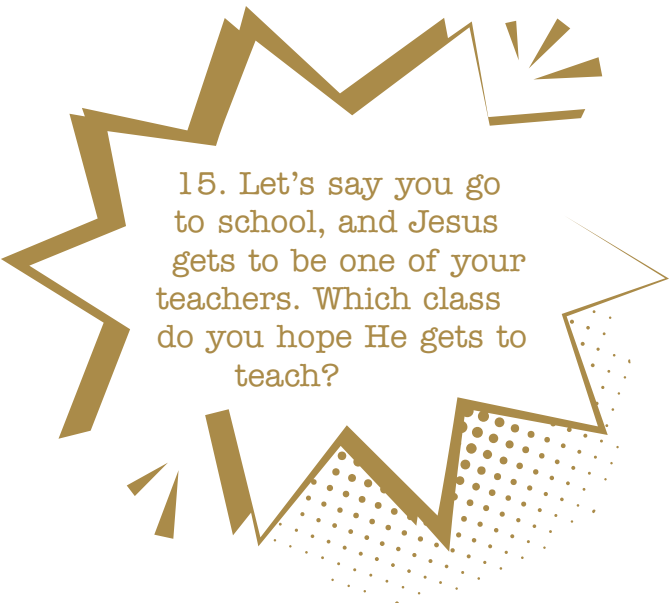
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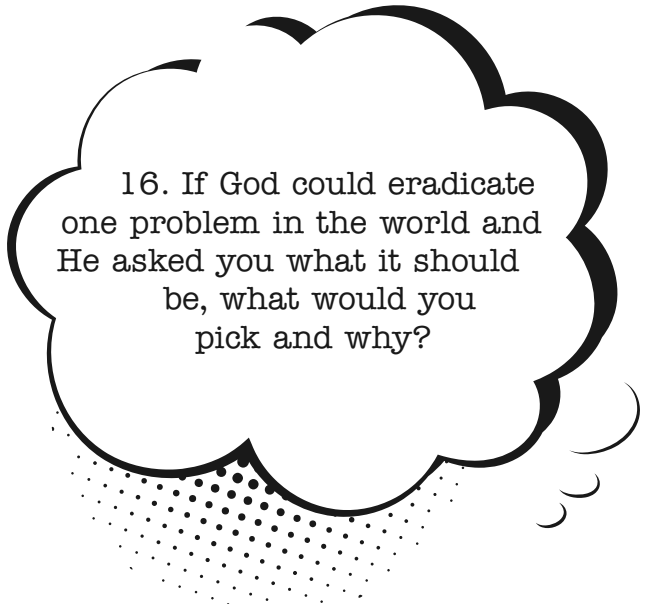
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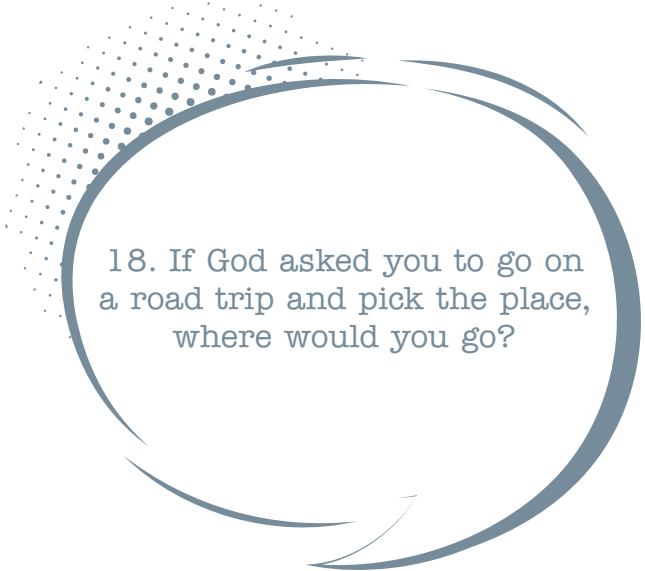
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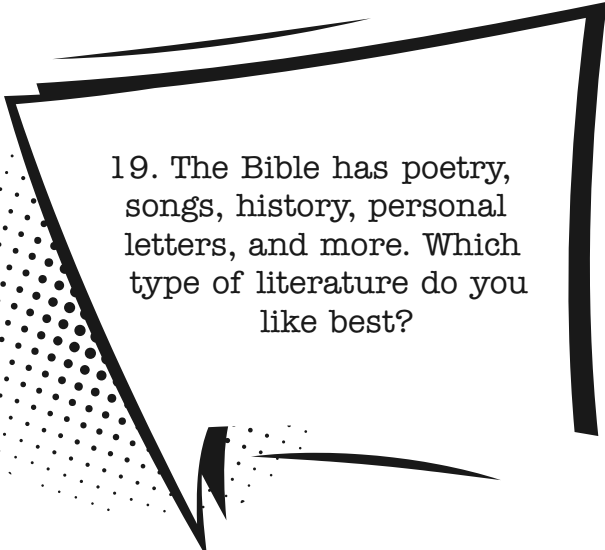
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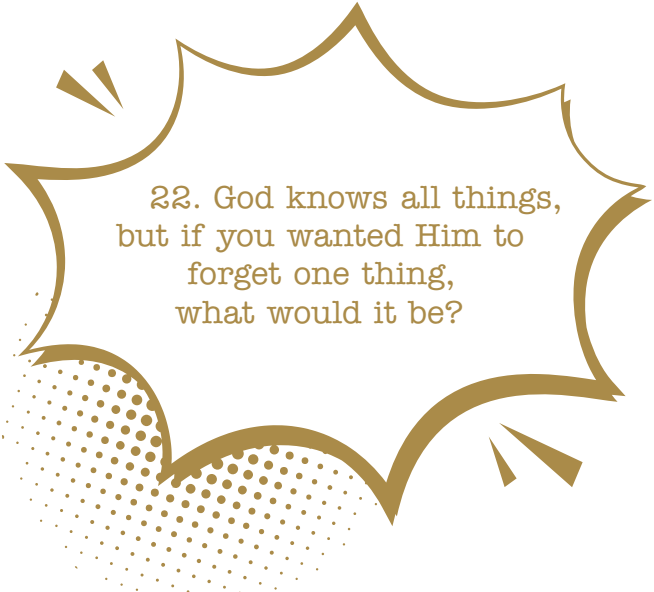
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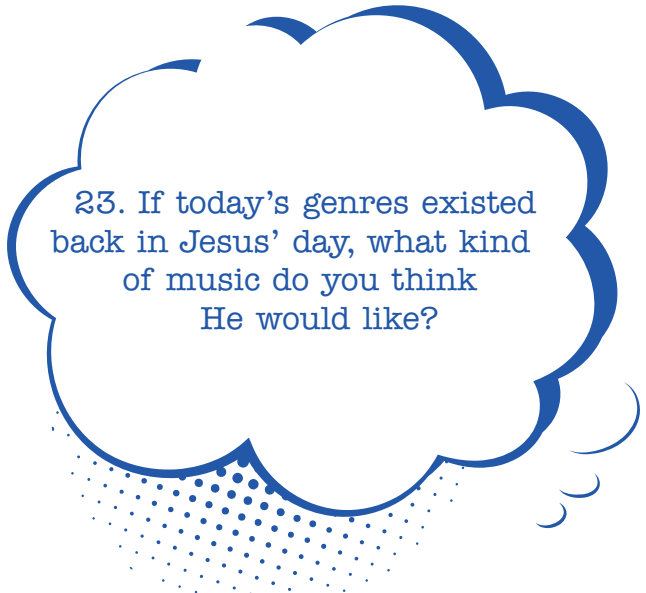
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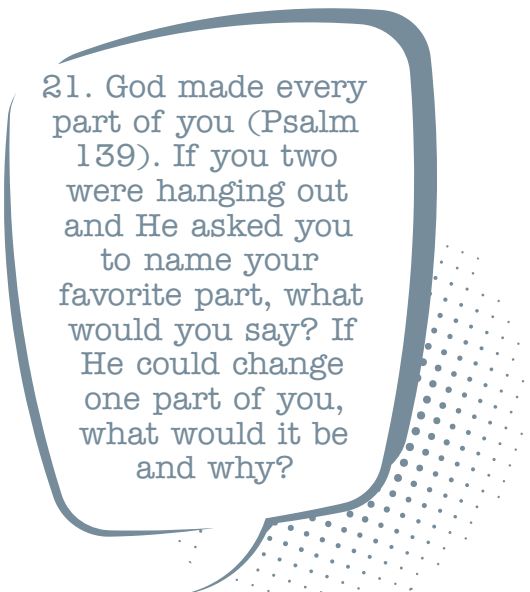
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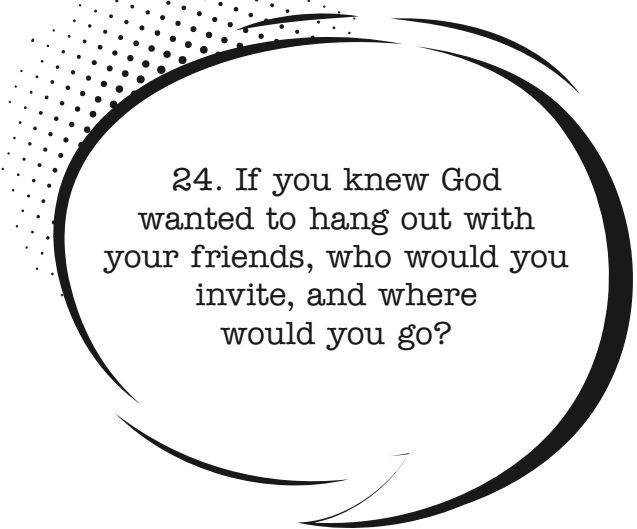
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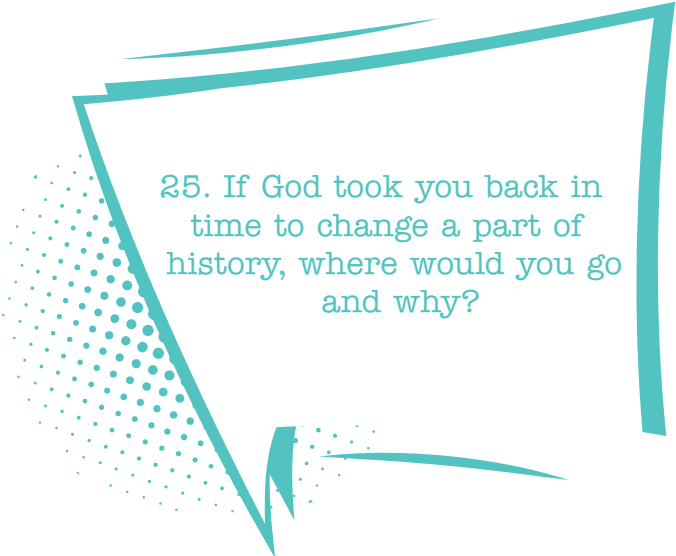


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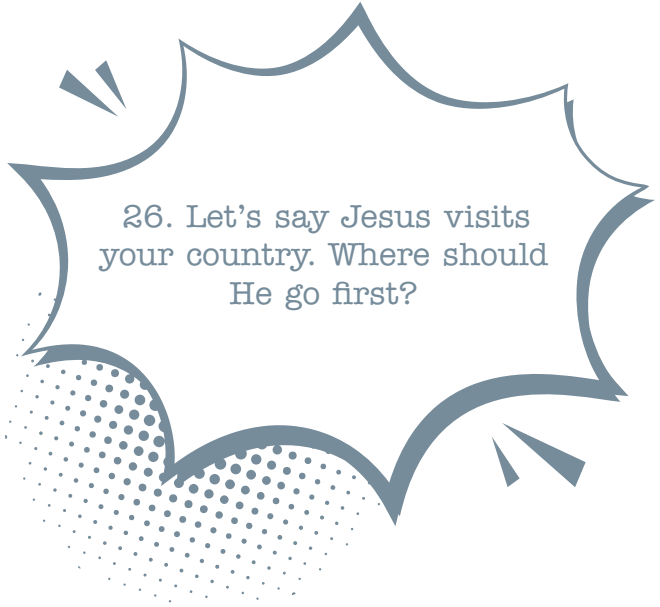


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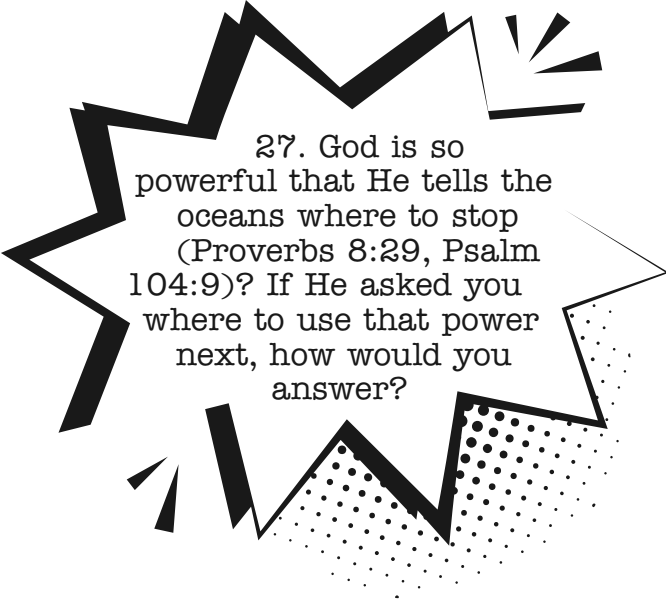




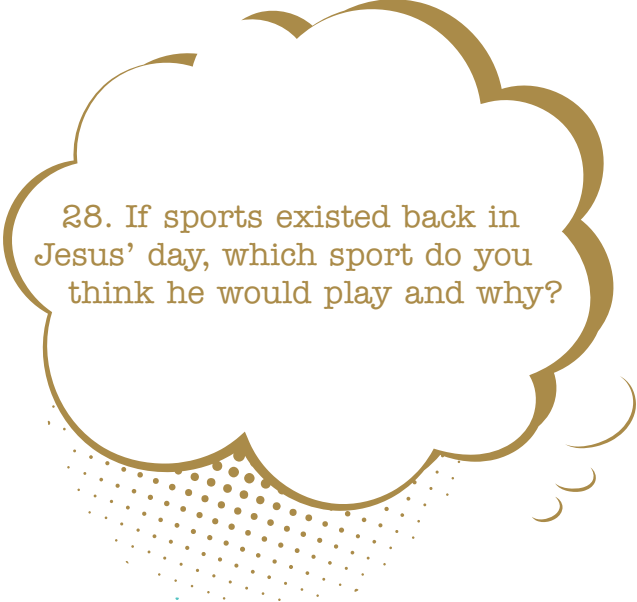
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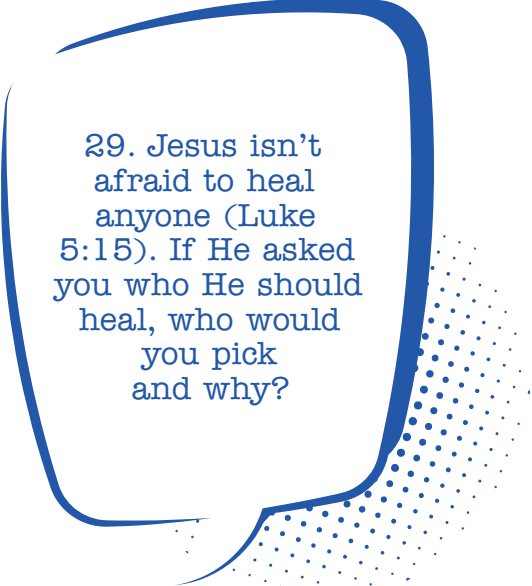
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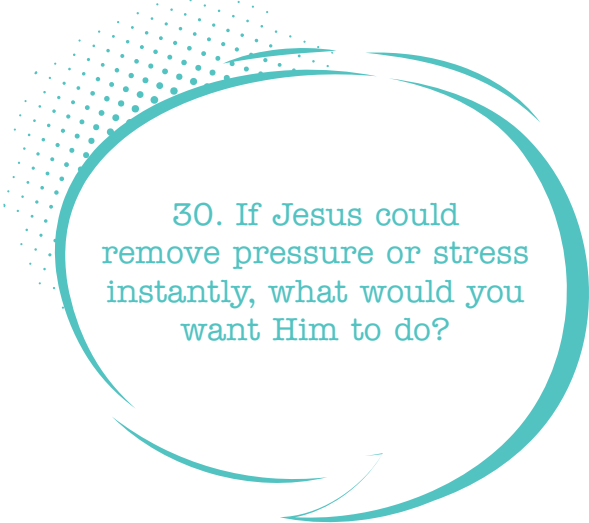
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