

REAL TALK: VALUING CONNECTIONS AT CHURCH

As teenagers grow in their faith, the relationships they build at church play a crucial role in shaping how they experience God. This resource is designed to help you have meaningful conversations with your teen about the importance of connection, belonging, and community in their spiritual journey.

Plan a time to sit down with your teen and use these questions to have a discussion with them. This could be over dinner one night, during a family devotion, or an intentional time to have this conversation.

OR

If you don't want to have one big conversation with your teen, pick one or two questions to discuss after church each week. Keep it light, conversational, and encourage them to share their feelings. Over time, these small conversations help teenagers see that faith grows in the context of real relationships.

Reflection Questions

- Who at church makes you feel welcome and cared for? How so?
- Tell me about a time someone encouraged you or prayed for you at church. What about a time when you encouraged or prayed for someone at church?
- How do you feel when you are part of a group at church? What makes you feel that way?
- What is one thing you enjoy doing at church because of your friends or leaders?
- If you could invite a new friend to church, who would it be and why?

Connecting Conversations to Faith

Use these questions to help your child see how belonging and building relationships at church can connect to following Jesus.

- How does being part of a group at church help you understand God better?
- Who do you look up to at church as an example of living like Jesus? Why?
- How can you show kindness or encouragement to someone at church this week?
- Why do you think Jesus wants His followers to live in community with one another?

Scripture References

Take a moment to read these scriptures together. Encourage your child to learn to see belonging and relationships as part of God's plan.

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** – *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*
- **Romans 12:10** – *“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** – *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”*
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** – *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”*
- **John 13:34-35** – *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Practical Tips for Parents

- **Model connection:** Show your child how you engage with peers, leaders, and other families at church. Kids notice and imitate what they see.
- **Celebrate relationships:** Ask about their friends or leaders at church and show genuine interest.
- **Encourage involvement:** Help them participate in their group, service project, or activity where they can grow friendships.
- **Follow up:** Ask about people they talked to, prayed with, or served alongside each week.