

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH



CONVERSATION GUIDE

... for intentional conversations with students

It might not seem like your middle school LifeGroup will ever focus enough to really talk about faith although they could probably talk about YouTube videos and who-likes-who all day. Don't worry. There will be moments where you talk about faith that you might think they didn't pick up on, but they are listening. And how you talk about faith with your group matters! Your group is going through a lot of changes, and growing in their faith is one of them. Middle schoolers are transitioning from a time when their faith has been a byproduct of their parent's faith. But these are the years when they take initiative and create a faith of their own. The best thing you can do is be a coach, not a teacher. Cheer for them from the sidelines, and affirm them in the personal faith journey. As you have this ongoing conversation about faith with your few, here are a few words to say and not to say. Remember, your goal is to...

PROVOKE THEIR DISCOVERY

**so they will own their own faith
and value a faith community.**

CVC YOUTH

WHAT TO SAY:

- “Trusting in God doesn’t mean there are no bad days. But those days can deepen our faith in a God who can help us get through our biggest challenges. Talk to Him about it.”
- “You will never have everything figured out. If we ever think we’ve figured God out, we’ve made Him smaller than He should be.”
- “I love watching God grow you into someone who loves Him and loves others. Right now, I can see _____.”
- “A growing faith doesn’t mean a perfect life. You are going to mess up, and that’s okay. God always has grace, and so do I.”
- “One of the best things you can do for your faith is to come to small group and be connected to other people working through their faith, too. I’m so glad you’re here.”
- “Doubt isn’t bad. Let’s talk about it.”
- “You’re great at _____. What is a way you might be able to use that gift to help others?”
- “What you’re going through reminds me of a verse that means a lot to me: Can I send it to you?”
- “I’ve heard one of the best experiences to grow your faith is to go on a mission trip. Are you interested in something like that?”
- “How can I pray for you as you start making decisions about what’s next in your life?”
- At times, the best thing is to say nothing. Modeling what a “grown-up” faith looks like will speak louder than any directive.

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- “If you just trusted God more, you wouldn’t have these questions.”
“Everything will just work out.”
- “You just need to have more faith.”
- “When you have faith, things always work out.”
- “You should never be content with where your faith is.”(Build them up to move forward, but don’t overwhelm them.)
- “You need to talk to me about this stuff!”