



HIGH SCHOOL AUTHENTIC FAITH

CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

YOUR TEEN is in a phase when the complexities of the world, and their life in particular, are becoming more obvious than ever before. The answers that seemed simple in their childlike faith aren't cutting it and the black and white certainties that once seemed rock solid feel a little crumbly and gray. And that's OK. As their way of viewing the world matures and grows, the way they understand faith should grow, too. Allowing them to ask questions and evaluate their faith will help them make it their own. Our responsibility to our kids at this stage is to..

WHAT **TO** SAY:

"Trusting 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 out God, we've made him smaller than He should be."

"I love watching God grow you into someone who loves Him and loves others. Nothing makes me more proud. Right now, I can see _____."

"A growing faith doesn't mean a perfect life. You are going to mess up, and that's OK. God always has grace for you, and so do I."

"One of the best things you can do for your faith is to be surrounded by a small group of people who are on the same journey you are. What can I do to make it easier for you?"

"Would you like to consider going on a mission trip to help with something you are passionate about? We can explore some options together if you'd like to."

"I know I may not always be the person you want to talk to about your faith. Who are some people you feel comfortable talking with?"

"How can I pray for you?"

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

"If you trusted God more, you wouldn't have these questions."

"Everything will just work out." (*We know God can bring good even from hard things, but we need to be careful to not disregard the real feelings our kids have in the midst of things not working out.*)

"We have too much going on to make time for more activities." (*In regards to serving, small group, or time with a small group leader.*)

JUST REMEMBER:

SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE the opportunities they have to serve and be in a small group. Welcome their questions in an environment of support and encouragement, taking the opportunity to demonstrate God's grace, love, and forgiveness even when you are surprised by their choices. You want to keep the lines of communication open during this time of growing maturity and independence and continue to be a safe person for them to talk to.

AUTHENTIC FAITH: Trusting Jesus in a way that transforms how I love God, myself, and the rest of the world.