

PARENT/STUDENT WISE CHOICES GUIDE

10th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a meaningful conversation with your teen about who their friends are and having the ability to stand up to peer pressure when it comes from friends. Then move them to find godly friendships that go below the surface and can strengthen one another's journey with God.

THE 411

The sophomore year has proven to be a critical year for many teens dealing with peer pressure. It is a year where many teens are influenced to go down a wrong path mainly because friends have pressured them and they feel they must follow so they can belong in that group. That is why it is so vital to have our teens think about their friendships and what holds value to those friendships.

SUGGESTION

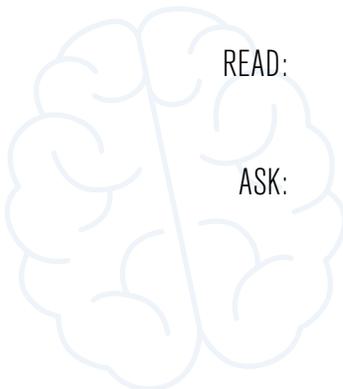
One night, get out the laptop or computer with your teen and go to their social media. Have them bring up their Friends list. Go through the list of their friends with them. You can start to get them thinking through whether these are true friends. Get them thinking through what makes a true friend. There is a big difference in shallow friendships and being intentional about deepening good friendships. Do they recognize when those friends start to make poor choices? Do they understand that soon those friends may try to influence them to join them in that path of life? How will they make the choice to stand up and do the right thing? Are they prepared for peer pressure and the confidence in themselves to say no and do what is right, even when it is a friend they have to disappoint? These are situations your teen is involved with each and every day. That is why this is a great continued conversation throughout the year. As you go through their social media, here are some discussion points.

DISCUSSION

- ASK: How do you know these individuals?
Do you ever hang out with them?
If you don't know them that well, why are they your friends?
What qualities do you really like about this person?
Who are your best friends? Why are they your best friends?
Who has a reputation of being a trouble maker on your Friends list?

READ: **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)**
"Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good character."

- ASK: How are many teens misled by bad company?
This could be a great time to go through some examples of peer pressure and how they would make decisions.



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Let's say you go over to your best friend's house and they have a few people over for the night, and they bring alcohol and want to drink. What do you do?

Let's say you go over to your friend's house and they want to go to an R-rated movie, and this is a movie that you know I don't want you to see. What do you do?

Let's say you go over to your friend's house and you plan to go bowling. Another friend comes over who wants to go, and this person will be driving but you find out that he has been drinking. What do you do?

Let's say you are hanging out here at home with some friends and they decide to go to a party where you know drinking and drugs will be. Your friends are really pressuring you to go. What do you do?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: This is why it is so important to ask the question about what is the wise thing to do in these situations. But just knowing the wise thing will not be enough when you are being pressured to do something or join in what your friends are going along with. You have to then make the wise choice and do the right thing. (Encourage them that if they ever get into a situation like that, they can call you or text you and you will pick them up or get them out of that situation.)

Transition into: That is why it is so important to have godly friendships and to keep each other accountable, and to have these conversations with your friend about situations like these. You both can help one another when put into situations like that and help each other avoid making poor choices.

Do you have that kind of friend? If not, let's pray for that kind of friendship and be intentional about seeking it.

Share how this is so important even in your life. We need godly friendships that go below the surface and challenge and encourage each other to grow in Christ.

