

PARENT/STUDENT FRIENDSHIP GUIDE

8th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have an intentional conversation with your student about the importance of choosing their friends wisely.

THE 411

Your son or daughter is soon to be entering the world of high school. The pressure and temptations that they will face in the coming years will be much greater than any of the temptations they have faced up until this point in their life. You have noticed that they are placing an added emphasis on hanging out with their friends and spending less time with you. Now is a crucial time in making sure that you have a conversation with your student about choosing friends who help them make wise choices in the face of temptations. God has given us friends so that we can sharpen and make each other better. Does your student have friends who are challenging them to be holy?

SUGGESTION

Now that your student is growing up and entering high school, they feel like they are getting closer to becoming an adult. Take them out with a group of your close friends so they can experience the benefit of adult friendships. Prep your friends ahead of time and ask them to help you show your teenager how you rely on your friends to navigate life. Explain to your student how your friends keep you accountable to God's call on your life to be holy.

DISCUSSION

ASK EACH OF YOUR FRIENDS TO SHARE:

What value does our friendship have in your life?

In what ways is our friendship hard work?

How have I challenged you to live a life for God?

SHARE FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE:

How has this particular group of friends challenged you to live a life for God?

What benefits do you get from your friends?

When is it hardest to be a good friend?

ASK YOUR STUDENT TO SHARE:

What are some of the challenges you are going to face as you enter into high school?

What temptations do you think you will face?

Is your current group of friends people you think will call you to be holy in the face of temptation? Why or why not?

ASK EACH OF YOUR FRIENDS TO SHARE:

What is one quality you always look for in a friend?

What was one mistake you made while selecting your friends in high school?

What is one piece of advice you would give my son/daughter about the friends they choose?



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: I have chosen the friends I have for a reason. These people strengthen me and make me better. The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)**, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." These friends are intentionally part of my life because they help keep me accountable to being a better follower of Christ and a better parent. I hope you will be able to say the same thing about the friends you choose.

PRAY

Take time to have your friends pray for your student. Not only will this be a powerful moment for your group of friends to acknowledge that you each play an important role in the lives of each other's kids, this will be a powerful moment for your student to see "iron sharpening iron" in action.

