

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



IN YOUR HOME...

Budgeting.

Now is the time where you start having critical conversations about college planning, buying their first car, or donating regularly to a cherished cause.



IN YOUR TOWN...

Go to different cuisines.

Maybe order one dish and share. Get them ready for exploring new things as they transition out.



OUT OF TOWN...

Partner with your student is to plan a road trip together.

Let them pick the music, the snacks, and the destination. Be intentional to make it a rite of passage for all of your kids.

Go to a Soup Kitchen together.

Help your child see the far reaching effects of poverty. This can help them cultivate a greater awareness of large scale issues and seeing how they can play a part in lending a hand

Mark 4:39

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be Still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Prayer

God, as _____ faces trials and challenges, reassure them that you have their back. Remind them that you have the power to calm the storms. With our faith in Christ, we can overcome the hard times. Amen.

"EVERY YEAR MATTERS"



MOUNTAINPARK
CHURCH

PARENTING MATTERS

A GUIDE TO ELEVENTH GRADE

"THE YEARS OF SELECTIVE HEARING
BECOMES A THING. HOBBIES AND ATTITUDES
BECOME KING."



HOW THEY ARE CHANGING



MIND

- Able to understand and be insightful about current issues
- Struggles with long-term thinking and planning
- More honest and able to accept who they are than in other times of their lives

BODY

- Trouble falling asleep before midnight
- Puberty is still in play for guys, while girls have reached their adult height and body development
- 54% of eleventh graders report being sexually active

FAITH

- Passionate with issues like control, responsibility, and justice individually and globally

FRIENDS

- Values humor as a point of connection
- Struggles with social control and emotions might lead them into hot water with friends

HOW CAN YOU PARENT THEM WELL

Engaging = THEIR = Character

GIVE THEM ROOM FOR FAILURE.

This is the year where your student will probably make the wrong call and have to live in the backwash of their own bad decisions. They might even try to brush some of these mistakes under the rug or pretend like they didn't happen. Failure and shame are inevitable this year, so get ready to engage in some critical conversations. We'd recommend even practicing how you are planning on having a conversation like this ahead of time. Your tone and body language are going to play big roles. Talk about why the boundaries are there, how they crossed them, and hear them out for why they decided to cross those boundaries.

EQUIP THEM TO THINK THRU LONG-TERM DECISION PLANNING.

They are starting to see how impactful their decisions are, but aren't always fully equipped how to make right decisions as they navigate challenges or difficult relationships. Be intentional to sit down and talk thru situations that are going on in their lives. Listen first and then ask permission to help coach them thru it. Allow them to express different options they see and their ramifications. Then add in a few options that you see but they haven't expressed. Help them establish a game plan for what they are going to do next. Check in with them to see how they are doing and further encourage them in their decision making.

ENCOURAGE THEM TO SEE THEMSELVES AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

Injustice and social issues are going to be high on their radar this year. Help them to see themselves as a catalyst for engaging in these conversations peacefully and be proactive to combat these issues in their context. All them to explore avenues to create social change and encourage them to explore deeper conversations with people who might disagree with them.

HELP THEM ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC FAITH

*Help your
11th Grader*

TRUST JESUS
WORSHIP THE LORD
STUDY GOD'S WORD
HAVE AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE

FAITH AT HOME:

BEFORE SCHOOL

Put up Scripture in the bathroom that they can see everyday. Memorize verses together and quiz each other while everyone grabs breakfast.

AFTER SCHOOL

Pick a Christian podcast or audiobook for you to listen to together, even if they're driving their own car.

DINNER

Let them lead grace before dinner. Google some different ways they can pray and have them test them out each week.

FAITH AT CHURCH:

Develop relationships with adults in the church.

Now is a great time to help them dive deeper than a "hi" with other church members. Soon they will be a "adult" in the church, so get them connected with some awesome adults who can continue to pour into their lives into the future.

Disciple a unchurched friend.

Help your student start to develop evangelism and discipleship skills by inviting them to dive into a deeper relationship with a friend. Encourage them to invite them to a small group or a retreat and journey with a new believer thru what it looks like to be a Christian.

Prioritize your faith walk.

It's important for your child to see you fully engaged in church. If your child asks what you're doing, make it personal about the relationships you're building and how being involved in church influences your life.