



## CONNECTING WITH ADULTS

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NOT SIMPLY MEETING PARENTS AND RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!

REMEMBER: ALL ADULTS ARE CALLED TO BE FAITH PARENTS ... FOR ALL KIDS

IT IS

- being the church
- becoming community
- equipping the saints to be the priesthood of all believers
- surrounding every child and youth with faith mentors

IN BAPTISM, parents, godparents, and the congregation makes some promises

HOW DO WE HELP ALL ADULTS KEEP THOSE PROMISES?

PARTNER WITH ADULT FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES TO EQUIP ADULTS TO

- know God's word and story
- do faith practices
- have faith-filled friends
- experience faithful, deep conversations
- serve God's world together

WHAT MIGHT THESE GOALS LOOK LIKE AS PROGRAMS?

- adult and/or cross+generational Bible study
- service projects
- expanding our circles of friends and those we know
- cross+generational experiences and mentoring

PARENTS SHARE

- weekly place and time for parents to gather
- provide childcare
- can be a book study or topical or sharing issues of the week
- facilitated, not led by an expert
- open with a simple prayer
- "My name is .... My kids are ... This week, ...."
- share ideas, strategies, resources
- choose one and commit to trying it
- thank the circle

BUILDING CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER REQUIRES time, space, generous listening, repetition

## CONVERSATION GUIDELINES

1. Use “I” language, speaking from your own experience. For example, “I think,” “I feel,” “I wonder,” “I believe.” Especially consider using “I messages”:
  - “I feel [then a feeling word]...
  - when you [describe the behavior]...
  - because [give the reason].”
2. Do not speak for a group of people, eg. “we,” “everyone,” or “people are saying.”
3. Listen carefully and actively.
4. Ask clarifying questions, but do not attack a person’s point of view.
5. Allow yourself and others to take a pass on any question or discussion.
6. Be gracious and open to all comments.
7. Refrain from “educating” each other.
8. Be open to all perspectives, looking for the best in each other.
9. Be open minded and ready to learn.
10. Confidentiality: We will not quote or summarize another person without their permission. We are encouraged to share what we personally learned from the collected ideas that were shared.