

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR SGLs

... for intentional conversations with students

You know the phrase “fake it ‘til you make it?” This might be the motto of the post-high school season for a student. As a small group leader, you might think your job is done! You’ve gotten them past the tumultuous last years of traditional schooling, and now you’re ready to relax and finally remove yourself from the constant barrage of group texts. But pause for just a second before you hit that button! This might be the transition when your students need you most. This is a whole new world they’re entering—one that may or may not include graduating high school, going to college, or going straight into a full-time job. This is your chance to help a student not feel abandoned by the church. They might not be at your same church—or even in your same state—but you’re in a unique place to help a student transition to what’s next at a pivotal point in their lives. We want to help you by giving you some words to say, and some words not to say. Remember, your goal during this phase is to:

FUEL THEIR PASSION
so they will keep pursuing authentic faith
and discover a personal mission.

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WHAT TO SAY:

- “Trusting in 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 God out, we’ve made Him smaller than He should be.”
- “I love watching God grow you into someone who loves Him and loves others. Right now, I can see ____.”
- “A growing faith doesn’t mean a perfect life. You are going to mess up, and that’s okay. God always has grace, and so do I.”
- “One of the best things you can do for your faith is to come to small group and be connected to other people working through their faith, too. I’m so glad you’re here.”
- “Doubt isn’t bad. Let’s talk about it.”
- “You’re great at _____. What is a way you might be able to use that gift to help others?”
- “What you’re going through reminds me of a verse that means a lot to me: Can I send it to you?”
- “I’ve heard one of the best experiences to grow your faith is to go on a mission trip. Are you interested in something like that?”
- “How can I pray for you as you start making decisions about what’s next in your life?”
- At times, the best thing is to say nothing. Modeling what a “grown up” faith looks like will speak louder than any directive.

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

- “If you just trusted God more, you wouldn’t have these questions.”
- “Everything will just work out.”
- “You just need to have more faith.”
- “When you have faith, things always work out.”
- “You should never be content with where your faith is.”
(Build them up to move forward, but don’t overwhelm them.)
- “You need to talk to me about this stuff!”

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