

MINISTRY MINUTE



CONVERSATION & CONNECTION TOOLS FOR PARENTS

Pause for a moment. Think about the time, work, and energy you put into planning a Sunday school lesson, a youth group event, a Bible study, or an after-school club program. What do you hear when parents pick up their child at the end of your time together? Are you hearing questions like: Did you have fun? Was today's club fun? Did the other kids talk to you? Did anyone notice your new outfit? Or as a leader have you ever tried to ask your kids how they liked the class today? Did you receive either a yes, no, or shoulder shrug response? Are you left wondering if today's topic may already be forgotten?

If we want our students to remember and consider how to put what they've learned during class time into practice, then we need to help parents engage with them the moment they leave our room. One way we can help is provide parents with great questions that require more than a yes, no, or "I don't know" answers. We want to encourage them to engage in conversations with their kids that will help them make stronger connections.



Here are resources you can share with parents:

Orange's/Amazing Life's Parent Cue App

Orange's strength is building connections between the church and the home and growing young disciples. The Parent Cue App is a free resource that helps parents have meaningful conversations about each week's learning with their children whether in the car, at a meal table or walking away from your classroom. The app provides parents with expert wisdom based on research and interviews with child development experts, professional counselors, and teachers. Its Age Phase content is designed to give parents insights and tools so they can understand, recognize, and leverage unique opportunities to positively impact your kid's future. Encourage parents to download the app for free from App Store or Google Play.

Axis.org

Axis is a non-denominational ministry that strives to see all caring adults equipped with the conversation, discipleship, and culture translation skills needed to reach the next generation for Christ. Axis bridges the gap between generations so that kids and adults can have sincere, open, and honest conversations about their day-to-day lives. Because the best way to understand each other is to talk and keep talking. At Axis.org you'll find Conversation Kits with short videos for teens and parents to watch and discuss together with the help of conversation starters. They also have Parent Guides on key topics. These downloadable PDF guides help educate and prepare parents to have meaningful conversations with their teens. Other resources from Axis include podcasts, the Culture Translator and 7-minute videos. All these resources are available free of charge from Axis.org.

Now, how about you?

What did you learn from this Ministry Minute? What ministry workers will you share this Ministry Minute with? How can you encourage your ministry workers to use this Ministry Minute?