



GRADE 6 TRANSITION EXPERIENCE

During the first few months of the 6th-grade year, we encourage parents to share their faith stories with their students. Developmentally, students are processing what it means to have a faith of their own. They're doubting and questioning faith more than ever before. This is a good thing.

It's a sign of healthy students taking faith seriously. So, it is at this critical juncture that we encourage parents to share their faith stories with their students, including the doubts they had while in middle school.

HERE ARE A FEW HELPFUL TIPS FOR SHARING YOUR STORY:

Be Prepared: Spend some time thinking this through. It may be a good idea to write it out so you can stay on track. Figure out what it is about your story of redemption that your student needs to hear. You don't need to make this a big event but do something that will make it memorable - like going for ice cream, or something else that's meaningful to your son/daughter.

Be Appropriately Honest: Students need to know the sin and redemption of your story. In some cases, you may want to filter the distracting details. In others, those details may be exactly what students need to hear in order to connect with your story.

Be Bold: This is not easy. But imagine a generation of students willing to boldly tell their stories to the next generation and be used by God to tell his story because that's what was modeled for them.

WITH THAT IN MIND, YOU MAY WANT TO COVER TOPICS LIKE THESE:

What was your relationship with your parents like?

What was middle school like for you?

Who were the key people in your life that shaped who you are?

What pivotal events shaped you growing up?

Can you think of a time when your faith was challenged? Have there been times of doubt in your past?

How did you meet your son/daughter's mother/father? How did becoming a parent change you?

What is your faith like now?

How do you hope to grow in your faith?

What has been a major challenge in your life? How did you cope with that situation?

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT:

What is the most difficult part of middle school for you?

How would you describe your faith?

Is there anything you wish I'd tell you more about?

Ask if you can have permission to check in with your child from time to time to ask how he/she is doing with these difficulties.