

# HOW TO WIDEN YOUR FAMILY CIRCLE

Sometimes it takes another voice to say the same things you are saying to your kid(s) about the most important things in life—just in a different way. That’s what we call “widening the circle.”

Pursuing strategic relationships for your kids takes a little bit of intentionality, but it can be as easy as 1-2-3: acknowledging who’s already there, inviting other people in, and encouraging them along the way. Let’s get started!

## ACKNOWLEDGE WHO’S ALREADY THERE

Think through family members, babysitters, teachers, coaches, instructors, friends’ parents, Small Group Leaders, employers. Who are the people who already have influence in your child’s life?

Ask yourself this question: If my child won’t/can’t talk with me about something (it happens), which adult in their lives would they go to that represents our same family values? If you have middle or high schoolers, ask them who they would go to.)

Write their names here. (If you don’t have a name for every blank, it’s okay.)

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## INVITE OTHERS INTO YOUR CIRCLE

Think about additional people to add to your support system. Inviting someone to be in your circle is as simple as inviting them to be part of your family’s life. Start with a list of people you admire or want to get to know better. Then be bold and make the first move. Here are a couple of ways to get started:

- Have a family game night and invite a few people you want to get to know.
- Volunteer in your child’s classroom and build rapport with their teachers.
- Invite a college student or your child’s Small Group Leader to dinner.
- Volunteer to help with your child’s sports team.
- Ask a trusted babysitter to attend your child’s game, concert, or play.
- Ask someone with a skill your child wants to learn to teach them something about it.
- FaceTime out-of-town grandparents once a week.

Who are you going to invite? Write their names here.

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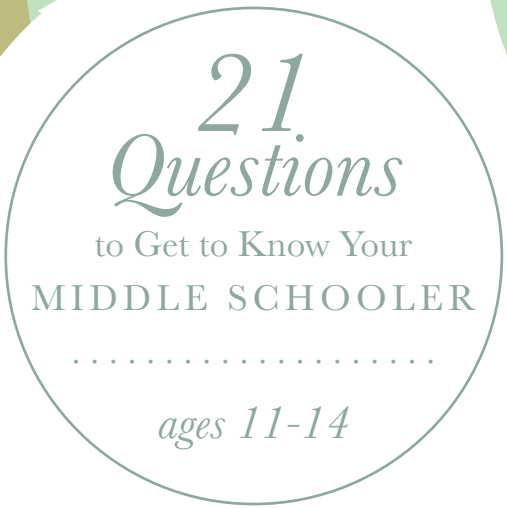
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## ENCOURAGE THOSE IN YOUR CIRCLE

Now it’s time to appreciate and invest in the people in your circle.

- Saying ‘I’m truly thankful for you’ goes a long way. So does a Starbucks gift card or making their favorite baked good!
- Encourage them with words like: “How can I pray for you?” “How can I make this relationship easier for you?” “Is there anything I can do to support you better?”
- Invite them into your home for coffee or dinner and build a family relationship.

What’s one thing you can do to support or encourage each person in your child’s circle?



# 21 Questions

to Get to Know Your  
MIDDLE SCHOOLER

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*ages 11-14*

1. What is your favorite snack?
2. If you were to start a YouTube channel, what would it be about?
3. What rule in our family drives you the most crazy?
4. If you could be the star in any movie, who would you be?
5. If you had to do choose one chore to do for the rest of your life, what would you choose?
6. What's the most annoying habit that other people have?
7. If you had to be stuck in a video game, what video game would it be?
8. What do you look forward to most: getting your driver's license, going to college, or something else?
9. What apps/games are your friends into?
10. What is your favorite app/game?
11. If you could choose three people outside of your family to go on a dream trip with you, who would they be?
12. If you could be famous for something one day, what would you be famous for?
13. What is the most talked about TV show right now?
14. Who is your favorite YouTuber?
15. If you could only be good at one thing, what would it be?
16. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
17. Why is your favorite person your favorite your favorite person?
18. What is the funniest video or meme you've seen lately?
19. What makes you feel better when you are sad?
20. Would you rather have only one or two close friends who know you very well or a bunch of friends who don't know you as well?
21. If you had to play one song on repeat to annoy everyone around you, what would it be?



*21*  
*Questions*  
to Get to Know Your  
HIGH SCHOOLER

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*ages 14-18*

1. What tradition of ours do you hope to keep throughout your life?
2. Who do you like spending time with and why?
3. What new foods have you tried and loved?
4. What podcasts, books, or TV shows are you into right now?
5. Where do you hope to travel or live one day?
6. What is something God is teaching you right now?
7. Is there something about our world today that makes you angry?
8. Tell me about a recent news story or article that gave you hope in the world today.
9. What kind of friend do you want to be?
10. If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?
11. What is one habit you wish you could start or stop?
12. What are some small things that make your day better?
13. How would you describe yourself in three words?
14. If you could choose one thing for me to get into (yoga, a book you're loving, a documentary you saw, etc.), what would it be?
15. What is your favorite way to relax?
16. What is one thing you wish you knew how to do?
17. What are some of the most important things to you in a relationship?
18. Would you rather be the best player on a losing team or the worst player on a winning team?
19. What is the most annoying question that people ask you?
20. If all jobs paid the same, what job would you like to have?
21. What's your favorite memory?