

# FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

## 9TH GRADE

### OBJECTIVE

Help your student recognize the impact of their relationships and grow in their ability to form healthy, respectful, and Christ-centered connections with others.

### WHAT TO KNOW

The relationships your student forms now are shaping how they view themselves, how they treat others, and how they live out their faith. Whether it's through sports teams, classes, social circles, or group chats—every connection matters. This is a foundational season for learning what makes a relationship life-giving and godly.

A biblical view of friendship is rooted in love, honor, trust, and accountability. The right friends will sharpen your student's character and faith, while the wrong ones may lead them in the opposite direction. Help your student see that strong relationships are built with purpose and that boundaries are not only okay—they're essential.

### TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* Romans 12:10 NIV  
Relationships should be rooted in love and respect.

*The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*  
Proverbs 12:26 NIV  
Our closest relationships will influence our direction.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.* Proverbs 27:17 NIV  
Good friendships help us grow in character and faith.

*Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.* Colossians 3:12–14 NIV  
Loving others well means living with grace, patience, and humility.

*Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.* Proverbs 13:20 NIV  
The people we walk with will shape who we become.



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## TALK ABOUT IT

- What does it look like to “honor others” at school or on your team?
- Who brings out the best in you?
- How do your friends support you when life gets tough?
- Have you ever felt like a friendship was taking more than it gave?

Use these questions to help your student reflect on the kind of friend they are—and the kind of friends they choose. Talk about how Jesus calls us to build others up and how the right relationships can grow their faith, while the wrong ones can pull them off track. This is also a great time to talk about boundaries: loving others doesn’t mean giving everyone equal access.

## LIVE IT OUT

Help your student think through what makes a friendship Christ-honoring by talking about qualities like encouragement, respect, consistency, and accountability. Each of you can write down a few traits you value in a friend, then discuss a relationship that’s been especially positive and why it matters. Talk honestly about boundaries—like saying no, avoiding gossip, or protecting emotional safety—and why they matter in building strong, healthy connections. Most importantly, pray together for the wisdom to choose friends who build them up and the courage to walk away from those who don’t.

## PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God to guide your student’s relationships, give them discernment, and grow their confidence in setting healthy boundaries.

"God, thank You for the relationships in my student’s life. Help them choose friends who bring out the best in them and lead them closer to You. Give them courage to set boundaries and wisdom to love others with grace. Grow their confidence in who You’ve made them to be. Amen."

