

FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

7TH GRADE

OBJECTIVE

Help your student understand how godly friendships influence their faith and character—and guide them toward relationships that reflect Christ's love and wisdom.

WHAT TO KNOW

The friendships students form in middle school play a big role in shaping who they are becoming. Whether it's a best friend, a classmate, or someone from their small group, these relationships can either encourage their faith or challenge it. Scripture reminds us that not every friendship is healthy. That's why it's so important to help students think about the kind of people they're spending time with—and the kind of friend they're becoming. God desires for us to have relationships that help us grow, not ones that pull us away from Him. This is the perfect time to start helping your student identify what makes a friendship strong, supportive, and grounded in faith.

TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV
The people we surround ourselves with will shape our character—for better or worse.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 NIV
True friends challenge and encourage us to grow in our faith.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 NIV
Friendships rooted in love involve helping and supporting each other.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 NIV
God calls us to love our friends with grace and forgiveness.

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20 NIV
Our closest relationships influence the direction of our lives.



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TALK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever felt like a friend brought you closer to God—or further away?
- What qualities do you think make a friendship godly?
- How can you stand strong in your faith while still being kind to others?
- What do you think it means to be a good influence?

You might share a friendship that shaped your faith. Remind your student that God wants friendships built on truth and encouragement.

LIVE IT OUT

Encourage your student to take intentional steps toward building Christ-centered friendships. They can start by identifying the kind of friend they want to be and choosing to invest in relationships that help them grow in their faith. Make a list together of the qualities they value in a friend, and talk through ways they can be a positive influence in their current circles. Help them create a simple plan to set healthy boundaries, show love with wisdom, and lean into relationships that reflect God's truth. Most importantly, challenge them to pray regularly for their friendships and trust God to lead them in choosing wisely.

PRAY TOGETHER

End your conversation with a prayer that invites God into your student's relationships and gives them confidence to choose wisely.

"Father, thank You for the gift of friendship. Help us to choose our friends wisely and to be a positive influence on others. Guide us in our relationships so that we may encourage one another and grow together in Your love. Amen."

