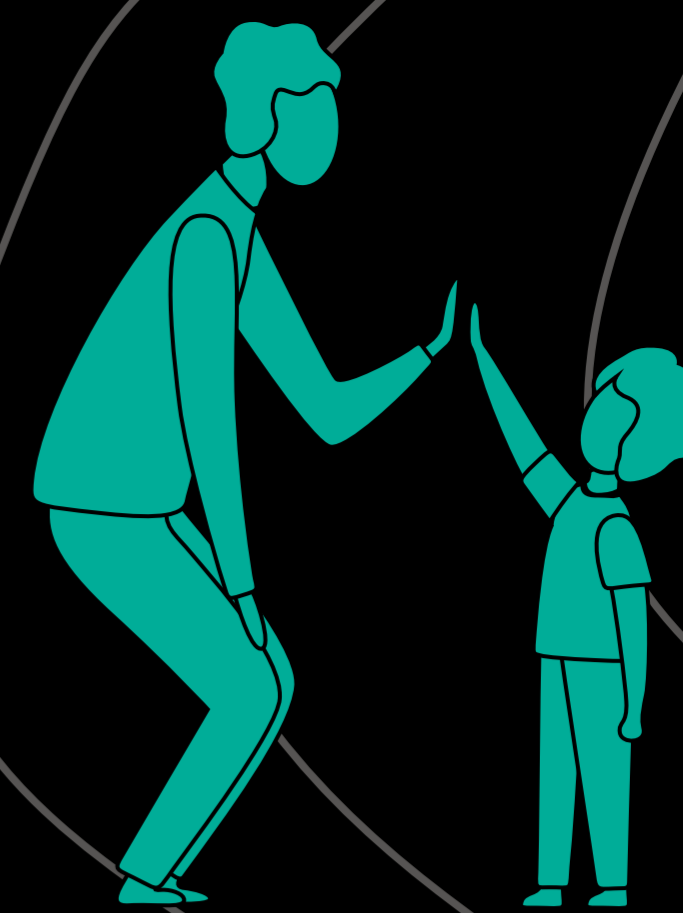
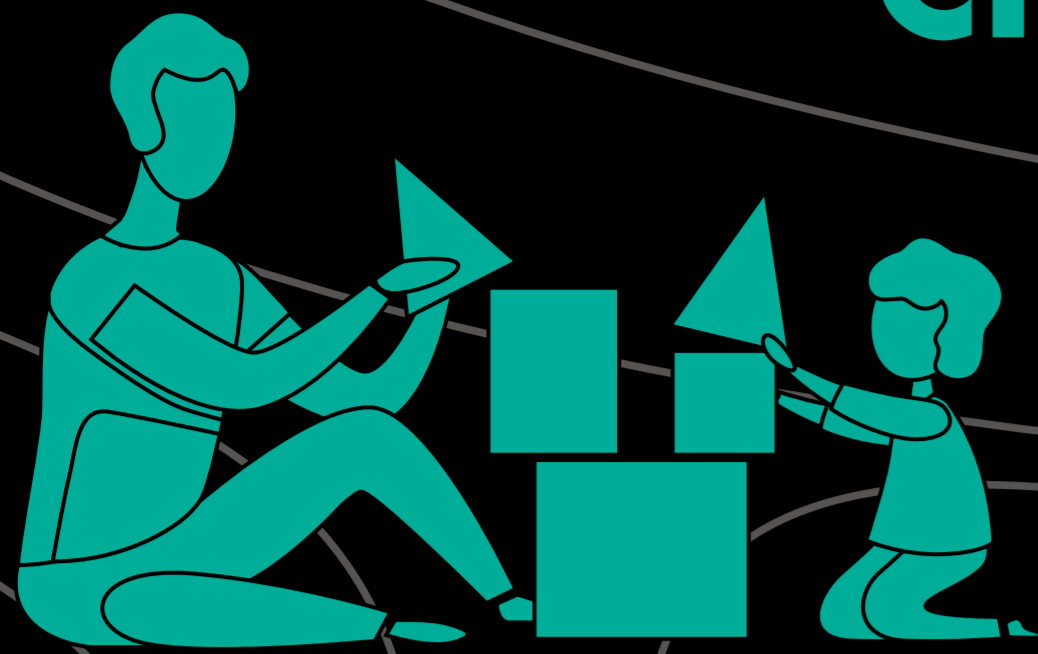


8 QUESTIONS EVERY CHILDREN'S MINISTER SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES TO HELP KIDS NAVIGATE FAITH IN A DIGITAL AGE



#1

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Children's pastor Beth Cunningham reflects, "Younger parents want community." Her church offers supper clubs, facilitating less formal relational connection for these parents. Am I intentionally providing community connection points for the young parents I serve?

#2

FAITH-FORMATION NEEDS

Parents of media-engaged children lean more heavily on the church to provide them with stability and resources for their child's spiritual growth. There is a heightened sense of urgency to get these kids into Christian social circles and to meet their faith-formation needs; there is also a greater need for guidance for how to relate to tech and media in a healthy way. How is my ministry stepping up to meet these needs? In each of these three areas?

#3

11-YEAR-OLDS

Dan Scott says of 11-year-olds, "It's the best time to teach a child what they need to know, because a lot of formative memories happen at age 11 and into the pre-teen years." Is my ministry positioned to serve 11-year-olds well?

#4

TWEEN ENGAGEMENT

In the early years, children's interest in attending church grows, but when they hit their tweens, it often shifts. As they emerge into their teens, kids seem to split into those who engage more in church and those who lose interest. How am I strategically keeping tweens engaged in my ministry so they don't become the teenagers who lose interest?

#5

SENSITIVE TOPICS

There is a lot of confusion and disagreement among parents and ministry leaders about how and when to address sensitive topics with children. Have I openly developed a plan with the parents in my ministry for when and how sensitive topics should be addressed with their children?

#6

PARTNER WITH THE PARENTS

Brian Dollar reflects, "Parents want a solid and biblical spiritual experience for their children. Although they might not be able to articulate it, they are also looking for a partner to help train their child in becoming a lifelong follower of Jesus. . . . Spiritual formation happens first and foremost in the home." Do I see myself as a partner to the parents in my ministry? Do I guide the parents as well as the children?

#7

EQUIPPING PARENTS

When asked how well their church has equipped them to have faith-focused conversations with their child, only about half of engaged Christian parents report feeling "extremely well" equipped (46%). In particular, parents of media-engaged children say they find it difficult to discuss faith-focused topics with their children. Am I investing time and resources in equipping parents for spiritual conversations in the home?

#8

CREATING SAFE SPACES

Beth Cunningham also reflects, "Create a safe space for children who are carrying burdens they aren't prepared for. They need to share what's going on in their hearts. . . . Articulation helps—letting them feel heard by caring adults." Am I creating safe spaces for children to process the hard parts of being a kid?