

Ten Ways

TO CONNECT WITH CHILDREN AND TEENS IN YOUR CHURCH



A big determiner of whether youth stay in the church is whether they have strong relationships with adult members of the congregation. How can you be one of those people to the children and teens in your church? Here are 10 ways.

1 KNOW THEM BY NAME

There's no better way to communicate to children and teens that you see them as individuals than to use their name.

2 SPEND TIME WITH THEM

Use your gifts to show Christ's love in children's worship or Sunday school, VBS, or youth ministry programs. Talk with youth during coffee time.

3 BE CURIOUS

Some people develop a "mental library" of conversation-encouraging phrases to use—phrases such as "What was that like?" or "Tell me more about that."

4 BE REAL

Don't feel you need to know everything. Be honest about not having it all figured out. Tell about times you've had to trust in God.

5 REACH OUT

When you hear that young people are having a difficult time, let them know you care. Point them to the Lord's faithfulness and mercy.

6 AFFIRM THEIR GIFTS

When you notice a Christ-like trait or a gift well used, say so! Take opportunities to encourage children and teens as they become who God created them to be.

7 PRACTICE INCLUSION

Find ways to make your congregation welcoming for children of all abilities. Visit the Disability Concerns website at crcna.org/disability.

8 LOOK BEYOND WHAT YOU SEE

Children may be shy and teens may appear disinterested. Your job is to look past their skin to the person within.

9 TELL FAITH STORIES

Look for ways to tell kids and teens what God has done in your life and the lives of others. Visit our Faith Storytelling toolkit at crcna.org/faithformation/toolkits.

10 WORSHIP, LEARN, AND SERVE TOGETHER

Look for ways to incorporate intergenerational experiences into all of your church's life. Visit our Intergenerational Church toolkit at crcna.org/faithformation/toolkits.



FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Faith Formation Ministries is a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.

We offer coaching to CRC churches. Our regional coaches are available to assist your church in developing strong faith formation frameworks and practices. Visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/coaching for more information.

We create and curate resources for faith formation, including topical toolkits on

- Welcoming Children to the Lord's Supper
- The Building Blocks of Faith
- Faith Storytelling
- Professing Our Faith
- The Intergenerational Church
- Children's Ministry (coming soon)

You'll find these resources online at crcna.org/FaithFormation, including many more "10 Ways" tools similar to the one included here.

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