

Talking to Parents (2 videos)

Discuss:

- What do you think it means to lead with respect with a parent?
- What are practical ways that you can see each person as the Lord sees them?
- “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Cor. 2:9 How could this apply to the parent as well as the youth for those who follow Christ?
- Calling parents, reaching out and simply asking permission before you do something with their child might seem simple. However, do you usually leave it up to the student to ask about hanging out? Have you ever thought about you reaching out as being a way to open getting to know a parent?
- This video uses the example of picking a student at their house to take them out. What are other ways you might be able to get to know a parent? If parents drop their children off at group what are ways that you could engage and get to know them?
- Have you ever had the "they don't care anyway" attitude? What can you do to stop this?
- Notice both videos talk about leading with respect. What are some practical ways that you can continue to lead with respect when reaching out to ALL parents?

- Have you ever thought about purposely telling parents what you love about their children?
- Take a few moments and think through some specific students. What is something positive and Christ focused you can say about them? Make sure you think through those students that a "compliment" may not come quickly to you. These parents may need to hear what you see in their children the most.
- Have you thought about the attitude we can have as being the "replacement parent?" Sometimes parents even put us in this place. How can we purposely keep putting the parent back in the their God given place?
- Sometimes the best way to understand parents is simply by understanding that we are invited into the lives of their children. No matter what we might think of what is going on at home, it is our honor that we are allowed the privilege of building relationships with a student. The Lord loves every family the same.

Discuss with your team some practical ways that you CAN begin the process of ongoing conversations with parents beyond the parent "meeting." These are different, usually for bringing information, clarifying vision, or even asking for help. Times like these are great, however, this is about having dialogue with a parent about who they are.