
Have Good Conversations

LEARNING HOW TO DEAL WITH TOUGH ISSUES LIKE _____ IS UNFORTUNATELY PART OF LIFE.

TALK TO YOUR STUDENT:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.** 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

CONFLICT: MATTHEW 18:15-17

15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

PEACE: ROMANS 5:1-5

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

GOOD QUESTIONS = GOOD CONVERSATION

Open dialogue starts with asking good questions baked in empathy. Be ready to respond with how YOU feel as well. Asking for your student's opinion leads to further discussion. You want to ask questions that show that you value what your student thinks.

CREATE A SAFE PLACE = GOOD CONVERSATION

When discussing tough issues you have the ability to create a safe place by considering the environment, body language, and how you listen. The environment will help your student feel comfortable. Your body language and tone will guide the safety. Listening carefully reinforces trust.

CLARIFYING & DIALOGUE = GOOD CONVERSATION

Asking followup questions will help your student see that you are listening, care about their thoughts, and develops the conversation. Help your student process the tough issues, which good follow up questions helps your student open up. Examples:

- What does that mean?
- What do you mean when you say "_____?"
- Tell me more about that.

When you restate your students comments, it reinforces how much you are listening to them.

RESPOND IN LOVE = GOOD CONVERSATION

Having conversations around tough issues shows how you care and develops compassion throughout your discussion. Remember you cannot control what your student thinks.

Processing through challenging topics, we can remember where we have been. Generate good dialogue and create room to talk about personal experience. What is YOUR experience?

Handling tough issues might bring up opportunities for additional support. We are here for you and your family to walk alongside challenging personal issues.

Moving forward can be a challenge. A response of Love is pointing toward the next steps on moving forward. How do you/ we move forward?
