

MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR SGLs

... for intentional conversations with students

Technology impacts every age group, and you can bet your few will bring it up. In fact, as schools incorporate technology into their daily routines and electronics become more common in homes, kids are getting introduced to technology at younger and younger ages. Sure, you're probably a little annoyed at the sight of one of your few continually sneaking peeks at his or her phone, but technology can be a good thing—even a great thing. And you can really connect with your few through it. Sixth graders might seem tech savvy, but they aren't life savvy yet. Technology can be a really hilarious and awesome experience for your few to navigate with people and information just a few clicks away, but it can also get a little more serious in this phase—especially as students tend not to fully understand the permanence and effect of what they see and do online. So how do you talk about technology with middle school students? Stay positive, and stay informed. We want to help you get the conversation started by giving you some words to say and not to say.

WHAT TO SAY:

- "What kinds of devices do you have? What are your favorite apps?"
- "I want you to be able to ask me anything about your phone, apps, websites—any form of technology."
- "What's your name on Instagram/Twitter/Snapchat/etc.? We should follow each other so we can connect outside of group."
- "Do you know that everything you post, text, or tweet is public? Even though you can use some privacy settings, nothing online is 100 percent private."
- "Have you run into any jerks online lately? Have you read or seen anything that made you feel badly or uncomfortable?"
- "Treating others the way you want to be treated goes for technology too. Don't post or say anything you wouldn't want said or posted about you."

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

- "You guys don't need phones. I didn't have one when I was your age."
- "Social media is a great place to have a conversation with someone when you don't want to talk to them in person."
- "You're smarter than I am about that stuff. You'll figure it out by yourself."
- "We don't talk about that at church."
- "Watch out for stalkers on the Internet. People might kidnap you."