

Tuning In The Right Friends

In this moment you have the opportunity to go back in time and dial out the unwanted influences. In the “regret” column below, list your 3 or 4 greatest regrets in life. In the “replacement friend” column, write the name of a friend you wish had been more influential in your life at that time.

Regret	Replacement Friend

*“The company we keep is like the soundtrack in our lives
... inevitably we will dance to it.”*

Distribute: Parental Guidance Required Card

1. What am I doing to enhance my child’s relationship with me?
2. What am I doing to advance my child’s relationship with God?
3. What am I doing to influence my child’s relationship with people outside the home?

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”
Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Start asking two questions consistently ...

1. Is there someone you need to DIAL OUT?

Should I be more intentional? Sometimes you have to make it hard for them to hang out with certain kids.

2. Is there someone you need to DIAL IN?

Are you making it easier for your kids to make the right friendships. Don’t ground your kids from church!

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Give your kids permission to be completely honest with those who are safe for them to share. You make the rules, so they won't be able to share everything with you. Don't let your pride get in the way. Your reputation isn't as important as the future of your children! Objectivity is part of the issue here.

Illustration: Joshua sharing with Pastor Donnie

Video: Teenagers talking about Nexus Student Ministry

Let's help our kids be relationally rich! The greatest thing you can do as a parent is to equip your children to be deep relationally ... with you, their heavenly Father and others!

Let's Pray!

Father, if/when they drift ... make mistakes ... get off track ... please give me the wisdom to have driven the stake so deep relationally that at that point they'll want to come home and that they can depend on their Heavenly Father, their parents and friends who love them and are with them in the journey.

Discussion:

1. Why are the opinions of friends often much more persuasive than the opinions of more reliable authorities?
2. How have you seen the Proverbs 13:20 principle played out?
3. What is one positive and one negative example of how your friends determined the direction and quality of your life?
4. Who is influencing your children now?
5. Are there people who need to be dialed in or out of your children's lives? How would you suggest doing this?
6. How are you investing in the relationships that will influence your children?
7. Are there other adults saying the same things you are saying?

Parenting Books Bibliography