



Fall 2024

Dear Families,

Raising children in the faith doesn't happen just at church, but at home and in everyday life. As parents, you have the unique role to walk alongside your children every day and teach them about Jesus. In order to help promote and encourage faith development at home, I have included several resources for you to use in your homes:

- Family Devotions
  - Lutheran Hour Ministries
  - Shane and Shane "Worship in the Word"
- Talking to Your Children
  - Questions about God
- Family Traditions
  - Mealtime
- 16 Table Talk questions to use at the dinner table
- Stages of Life Development by CPH

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

Blessings,

Jen Roettjer, DCE

Director of Youth and Discipleship





## [ FAMILY DEVOTIONS ]

### LEARN

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers free daily devotions to read or listen.

<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp>

Daily Devotions by Lutheran Hour Ministries App

### SHARE

Highs and Lows from the day  
What are you thankful for today?

**PRAY**  
Confess  
Honor  
Ask  
Thanks

### MUSIC

Shane and Shane "Worship In the Word"

Search for Artist on Spotify or Amazon Music.

Visit the Shane and Shane YouTube Channel for music videos.



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## [ TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ]

### QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

#### Thoughts to Consider

Kids love to ask questions, especially as they learn and explore our world. Asking questions about God and their faith is a part of how they begin to understand who Jesus is and what he has done for us. Sometimes as parents, we need a quick refresher on how to answer their tough questions. Below are several resources to assist you as your children learn about God.

#### You Tube

- *Connecting with Youth with Sean McDowell*  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDP3r2FYXPWWyOaCc-KeP1zydHKWH3GdO>
- *Buck Denver Asks...What's in the Bible?*  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/whatsinthebible>
- *Clive and Ian's Wonder-Blimp of Knowledge*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M13gmnHPEzw>

#### Books

- "The Awesome Book of Bible Answers for Kids" by Josh McDowell
- "If I could Ask God Anything: Awesome Bible Answers for Curious Kids" by Kathryn Slattery
- "The Answers Book for Kids" 6 vols. By Ken Ham

#### Websites

- Answers in Genesis  
<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/answers/>
- Superbook's Professor Quantum's Q&A Contraption  
<https://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/questions>
- How to Give Age Appropriate Answers About God  
<https://childrensministry.com/questions-about-god/>



# [ FAMILY TRADITIONS ]

## MEALTIME

### Thoughts to Consider

Eating meals together as a family is a great time to connect with family members as you share not only a meal but conversation and time together. As a daily activity, this is a great time to incorporate a fun activity every once in a while or establish regular rituals that you do together as a family.

### Mealtime Activities

- Theme Night – Pick a specific food, theme, or night of the week. Consider ideas such as Taco Tuesday, Pizza Friday, Saturday Morning Pancakes, Luau Night, Fondue Night, or Foods from Around the World.
- Opening Day – Whether it's the first day of school or opening day for your little league baseball team, choose your food typical for that time of year or event.
- Colors of the Year – Change the tablecloth or napkins to match the time of year or even the liturgical church year.
- Disco Dishes – Choose a genre of music to listen to while washing the dishes.
- Honored Guest – Pick someone whom you would not normally visit with, invite them into your home for a meal, and treat them as an honored guest.
- Virtual Picnic – Schedule a video chat with long-distance family member or friend during a meal to eat together.
- Make a Meal for Others – Once you make the meal, deliver the food and enjoy the meal with them.
- Table Talk Questions – Use the questions included in this packet to facilitate conversations. Make sure each person has a chance to respond.
- Highs and Lows for the Day – Share with one another the best and worst part of your day.



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]

WHAT ONE SPECIAL TALENT  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

SET 13

IF YOU ASSIGNED EACH EMOTION  
A COLOR, WHAT COLORS WOULD  
REPRESENT WHICH EMOTIONS?

SET 9

IF YOU HAD A PET DRAGON,  
WHAT WOULD YOU NAME IT?  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO  
TOGETHER?

SET 13

WHAT IS IN THE ULTIMATE ICE  
CREAM SUNDAE?

SET 13

IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE  
PRESENT TO THE WORLD, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?

SET 13

IF YOU WERE KING OR QUEEN OF  
THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD YOU  
DO?

SET 13

IS IT MORE FUN TO BE A PARENT  
OR A CHILD?

SET 13

IMAGINE LEADING A CREW INTO  
SPACE. WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU  
THINK WOULD MAKE A GOOD  
LEADER?

SET 13



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]



[ TABLE TALK ]

IF YOU HAD AN EXTRA ROOM IN  
YOUR HOUSE, WHAT WOULD YOU  
USE IT FOR?

SET 13

HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHEN  
YOU ARE "GROWN UP"?

SET 9

WHICH FRIENDS WOULD YOU  
WANT TO GET ACCIDENTLY  
LOCKED IN SCHOOL WITH OVER  
NIGHT? WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

SET 13

IF YOUR PET COULD TALK, WHAT  
DO YOU THINK HE OR SHE MIGHT  
SAY?

SET 13

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE  
FAMOUS FOR SOMEDAY?

SET 13

IF YOU COULD BUILD YOUR OWN  
SCHOOL, WHAT WOULD THE KIDS  
DO ALL DAY?

SET 13

IF YOU TRAVELED INTO SPACE,  
WHAT WOULD YOU MISS FROM  
EARTH? WHY?

SET 13

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING  
TO DO AT RECESS?

SET 13



# Early Elementary



*“They know they are children of God created in His image.”*

MONICA KEGLEY

During childhood, kids develop speech and vocabulary skills, learn how to share, and generate curiosity about the world around them. It’s an exciting time because children begin reading and playing with groups of friends, and physical growth is very visible.

As children transition into the early elementary stage, they are reading to learn, practicing coordination, and wanting to grow in their own relationship with Jesus. Every child develops at a different pace and can learn from not only their parents and teachers but also their peers. They are spending less time with their parents or guardians and experiencing new challenges while trying to connect and build relationships with peers. It is during these years that children will gradually develop new skills to easily relate to the world beyond their immediate family. Kids at this stage show curiosity not only through their actions but also by asking questions.

## A Day in the Life

Eight-year-old Noah knows that Jesus died on the cross for him and for the sins of the world. He is curious and asks more complex questions such as “If God created the world, then who created God?” He enjoys making new friends, and feeling included and accepted is very important. He demonstrates kindness to his peers by asking if those who are playing alone would like to join the game he is playing. Noah shows respect to his parents and teacher and wants

to get his work done on time and do it well. He can be very anxious and worried if something does not go as he planned. He is still developing his understanding of the Means of Grace. He knows Jesus died to forgive his sins but often wonders if Jesus forgives the same sins over and over. He often needs reminders that there is nothing he can do that will make Jesus love him less.

# Benchmarks

Early elementary students gain new skills that will help their competency in all areas of development. They ask more complex faith questions that create in-depth discussions. They may look different from their peers and have different skills due to their own rate of development. Making new friends can be a challenge but can be done by learning how to accept and include others. This stage is one of increasing independence and exploration.

## Social

Children become more aware of the differences between themselves and their peers through social exchanges, especially at recess or other less structured times. They may experience acceptance or rejection while making friends. Adults play an important role in teaching children how to include everyone and acknowledging God's creation of different people.

## Spiritual

Early elementary children are beginning to learn more about God through singing songs, reading Bible stories, participating in traditions, and asking questions. They are beginning to ask big questions such as "What happens when I die?" or "Why did God create the devil?" They may ask more questions as you share the Bible with them.

## Emotional

Early elementary children are learning how to manage and identify their emotions, so being empathetic toward others' emotions is an even greater challenge. It is easy for them to have their feelings hurt and assume things are done on purpose. Parents do well by teaching empathy and how to treat others the same way we would like to be treated.

## Physical

At this age, children need to move frequently, especially during long school days. During these years, height, age, and weight have great variance from child to child. It's important to use these differences to teach kids the importance of loving their neighbors. Skills in coordination, handwriting, physical education, and sports are still evolving.

## Intellectual

As opposed to learning to read, early elementary students are reading to learn. The greatest intellectual milestone of this age is gaining confidence: to read, to ask detailed questions, to challenge themselves, and to make new friends. Children are building their own sense of competence and gaining confidence that will help them grow in all other areas of development.

# Faith Questions

## WHO IS GOD?



Children know that God is the Creator of the universe. They acknowledge three persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. However, the Trinity can still feel like an abstract concept. Younger kids also understand that Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is preparing a place for them in heaven.

*“Elementary students know that God is with them wherever they go.”*

## WHO AM I? WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



Elementary students know they are children of God created in His image. They are starting to realize they are sinners but that Jesus forgives them, even if they make the same mistakes over and over. Children can grasp that their neighbor is anyone God places in their lives to love and serve. They know they should treat their neighbors how they themselves want to be treated.

## WHERE IS GOD? HOW DO I INTERACT WITH HIM?



Early elementary students know that God is with them wherever they go, even though they cannot see Him. He is all present, which means He is also in heaven. They can talk to Jesus through prayer about anything, anytime and anywhere. They know that God hears their prayers and answers them. They also recognize Baptism and Communion as two of God’s tangible gifts of grace for believers.

## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH?



By singing songs and using physical actions, children can praise Jesus through their words and bring glory to Him. Teachers help students study the Word through devotions, classwork, and memory work. Kids can also teach verses to others when they are hurting or afraid, or share the Gospel with peers and parents. Children see God’s work as they serve others.

## WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US?



Elementary students recognize that Jesus died on the cross for all people and rose from the dead three days later. They understand He is preparing a place for them in heaven. They comprehend that Jesus saves all people, even those who make big mistakes. Jesus also shows students undeserved grace and forgiveness when they confess their sins because He loves them so very much.

## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH PEOPLE?



A child’s vocation is to be a son or daughter, sister or brother, student, friend, and good neighbor. At home, children are called to honor and obey their parents, show kindness to siblings, and love one another just as Jesus loves them. At school, students can treat classmates with kindness, complete their work on time, and listen to a teacher’s directions. At church, their vocation is to be in worship and participate in Sunday School. In the world, children are called to be good neighbors and treat others how they themselves want to be treated.

# Activities

## PRAYER JOURNAL

Give each child their own prayer journal to use as they begin learning how to talk to God during their personal devotion and prayer time. Complete a short devotion with the class, turn on Christian music, and allow students to have ten to fifteen minutes to write prayers from prompts or ones they come up with on their own.

## SERVICE PROJECT

Each community has its own unique service opportunities. For example, Milwaukee has an urban farming ministry that donates produce to low-income families. Children can help rake leaves, pick produce, and learn about food. Look for opportunities like this in your own city, town, or neighborhood!

## PLAY-DOH

Use Play-Doh to help kids get creative when explaining a Bible story or as an icebreaker to help them think abstractly about a concept or theme. Moving their hands and thinking outside the box can enhance a lesson.

## ASK A PASTOR

At this age, students are asking complex questions that even some adults do not know how to answer. Set aside a designated time when the pastor from your church comes in for “ask a pastor”—students write down questions anonymously on index cards, and the pastor responds.

## About the Author

Monica Kegley is a wife, teacher, and photographer. Although she grew up in San Francisco, California, she is a Concordia University Wisconsin alumni and now lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with her husband, Noah, who is a pastor. She enjoys photography, calligraphy, trying new coffee places around Milwaukee, and walking their dog, Cali.

# Upper Elementary

*“Kids need strong faith figures . . . to encourage their own faith walk.”*

MONICA KEGLEY

In the early elementary stage, parents want their children to learn independence while also protecting them from risks and dangers. Early elementary is a balancing act between a child gaining new experiences and asking complex questions about their faith while trying to navigate making friends, feeling accepted, and showing kindness to their neighbor.

The upper elementary years are crucial, as children desire to know their purpose in the world and how to use their God-given skills. Kids are more capable of thinking like adults but do not yet have the life experience to act like adults. Much as it was in the early elementary stage, confidence is a crucial part of development. Kids need strong faith figures in their lives to encourage their own faith walk. Children benefit when trusted adults show them the gifts they see God has given them and guide them in how to share their faith with others.



## A Day in the Life

An upper elementary student like ten-year-old Amara knows what Jesus has done for her on the cross. She is a believer in Jesus and desires a relationship with Him. She continues to have complex questions such as “Why do bad things happen to good people?” She enjoys making new friends but is finding her place in the friend group. Amara is starting to notice that her friends have different beliefs and traditions than her family does. Her hobbies

include volleyball, soccer, and making crafts. She feels a lot of different emotions when it comes to balancing volleyball and soccer practice, completing her homework on time, and serving as an acolyte at church. She is gaining confidence as a young lady because of her parents and other adult figures who remind her of the gifts and talents God has given her.

# Benchmarks

Kids are curious about how God is a part of their identity. They recognize the differences in their peers' traditions and beliefs. They are more aware of the changes in their bodies, which affects their confidence. Kids waver between wanting affection from their parents and spending time with their peers. The people they choose to surround themselves with and their desire to be accepted will greatly influence their interests. It is important to remind kids of their value in Jesus. They ask more complex questions and may even challenge authority. They desire to be more independent and begin to develop their own interests.

## Social

As relationships develop for kids, they spend less time with their parents and more time with their peers who have the same hobbies, beliefs, or interests as they do. They are trying to find their place. For better or worse, this can influence them and their decisions.

## Spiritual

You may hear a child ask a faith question such as "Why do bad things happen to good people?" They may begin to recognize that their friends have other traditions, practices, and beliefs than them. They need reminders of God's unconditional love for them and their identity in Him.

## Emotional

As kids begin to go through puberty, they can experience a mix of emotions, feeling overconfident one day and unaccepted the next. They can be under stress with many new changes and can be very sensitive.

## Physical

There is a wide range of physical development among kids at this age. While some kids may not have hit a growth spurt yet, others may be experiencing puberty and growing quickly. This can affect a child's self-esteem, acceptance from peers, and coordination in physical activities.

## Intellectual

Kids begin to think more abstractly and develop a sense of right and wrong at this age. Something that previously had a clear answer may now be shrouded in ambiguity. Preteens may ask hypothetical questions and challenge authority.

# Faith Questions

## WHO IS GOD?



Students know that God is the Savior of the world. He died for the sins of all; no sin is too small or too great to receive forgiveness. They also understand that He is all powerful, always present, and the ruler of all things. Kids recognize God has control over all His creation and loves them unconditionally.

*“Kids need reminders of God’s unconditional love for them and their identity in Him.”*

## WHO AM I? WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



Kids find their identity in Jesus. They know that they are members of God’s kingdom and that He is preparing a place for them in heaven. They find their value in Jesus and the individual gifts and talents He gives them. They know Jesus died for their sins, so they may receive forgiveness and grace. Kids recognize that their neighbor is anyone God has placed in their life to love and serve.

## WHERE IS GOD? HOW DO I INTERACT WITH HIM?



Preteens can interact with Jesus by creating a personal devotion schedule and designating time alone with God. They can pray to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything. Kids know that He is always with them, and they can see His presence in their daily lives through the gifts He gives them like friends, family, Baptism, and Holy Communion.

## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH?



Youth pastors, teachers, mentors, and parents can guide students in studying the Bible and valuing God’s Word. Preteens can serve in worship by playing handbells, singing in the choir, or serving as an acolyte or a greeter. Youth leaders can show preteens how to serve in their church, school, or community so they learn how to be a good neighbor.

## WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US?



Upper elementary students can recognize that Jesus chose to die on the cross, a painful death that He did not deserve. They know that He died for them so that they may have eternal life. Kids can comprehend that Jesus came to earth to conquer sin, death, and the devil and to save the world, including them, from sin.

## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH PEOPLE?



Kids see God work through parents, and they love, honor, and respect them and their authority. They see His work through teachers who show God’s love and kindness and through peers who include others at recess or lunch tables. Students can recognize God’s work at church when they actively participate in worship through greeting, ushering, singing, or as an acolyte. They also see God’s work in the world as they love and serve their neighbors.

# Activities

## SPREADING KINDNESS

Kids understand the importance of feeling encouraged by their peers, teachers, and parents. One way to spread kindness is to write affirming notes or Scripture verses on Post-its or pieces of paper and place them anywhere: the school bathroom, hallways, or on a teacher's desk.

## TIE BLANKETS

Make fleece tie blankets in groups of four or five. You can also partner with the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry to deliver the blankets to a nursing home with the dogs.

## SERVICE

Kids can participate in many different activities to learn how to serve their neighbors while also connecting them to church: serving dinner at an Advent meal, learning how to be an usher or acolyte in church, or joining the choir.

## PEN PALS

Assign each child in your class a shut-in or elder in your church. Ask them to write back and forth to each other for the year, and then host a meet-and-greet time at the end of the year. This will help foster relationships with the elderly members of your congregation, give kids perspective about someone in a different life stage, and encourage their letter-writing skills.

## About the Author

Monica Kegley is a wife, teacher, and photographer. Although she grew up in San Francisco, California, she is a Concordia University Wisconsin alumni and now lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with her husband, Noah, who is a pastor. She enjoys photography, calligraphy, trying new coffee places around Milwaukee, and walking their dog, Cali.



# Middle School



*“Middle schoolers recognize God is the Creator of the world.”*

**KAITLIN BAUER**

Middle school students are transitioning out of their elementary-student identity. In the elementary years, students may have loved school and been excited to learn. They may have participated in class and gotten along well with their classmates. Elementary students still enjoy a child’s perspective of the world, including things like believing in Santa Claus and generally accepting what they have been taught. However, new middle school students are ready for more freedom now that they are entering young adolescence.

Numerous changes are heading toward middle schoolers—if they haven’t begun already. School may become more challenging, and demands on grade performance may increase. Interactions with adults lessen as students spend more time on homework, chores, extracurriculars, and friends. Dating is a possibility as hormones begin to influence students’ relationships with the opposite sex. Decisions have greater consequences as preteens are faced with peer pressure and expectations from parents or sports. Middle schoolers understand technology and are diving headfirst into the world of social media. Although many adults shy away from working with middle schoolers, remember that they are curious, smart, and altogether goofy—a combination that can make teaching the faith exciting and fun!

## A Day in the Life

A middle schooler like Ben believes in God and knows that Jesus died for him. Ben knows that his friends and classmates are his immediate mission field. He’s navigating his own faith while being exposed to varying beliefs and questions that the world stirs up. His job is to do his best at school and take on more responsibilities at home. Ben is growing more confident in expressing his faith. He notices how God is active in his life. He

engages in confirmation class and attends worship. He’s excited to take his first Communion. Ben spends time in prayer and takes to heart the concerns and requests of friends and family. He has memorized the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed. Ben is influenced by the adults in his life: his basketball coach, his youth leader, and his confirmation teacher, who always encourage him in his faith.

# Benchmarks

Middle schoolers face quite a mix of changes as they enter young adulthood. This includes significant bodily changes that trigger other milestones and affect how they process feelings about themselves, others, and the world around them. Five major areas of development will be molded and formed alongside one another as students move away from concrete thinking and begin to create their own worldview.

## Social

The average social life of a middle schooler likely involves carefully navigating relationships, especially when it comes to interacting with the opposite sex. Exploring new friend groups, bullying, drama, and group dating are a few common experiences. The growing influence of social media plays a significant role, exposing preteens to images, ideas, and information while allowing them to participate in a digital world.

## Spiritual

Students know biblical stories and basic biblical truths but are beginning to view God, the Bible, and their faith in a more personal context and as sources for answering hard questions. They will face many doubts about who God is, evaluating what they believe while also encountering peers with different beliefs.

## Physical

Some of the greatest physical and hormonal changes an individual will experience occur during the teenage years. Physical changes can affect a teenager's comfort in their own skin, clothing, coordination, ability, and overall self-esteem.

## Emotional

Students are beginning to gain more perspective, compassion, and empathy for their peers, family, and friends. Middle schoolers might be dealing with stressors at home, academic challenges, and a greater self and peer awareness that influence how they feel about themselves.

## Intellectual

Students will likely be challenged by teachers, classes, and overall academic expectations in a middle school setting. Parents might also have higher expectations or assign more responsibilities for preteens at home, such as caring for siblings, doing chores, limiting media use, setting an alarm, and developing general time-management skills.

# Faith Questions

## WHO IS GOD?



Middle schoolers recognize that God the Father is the Creator of the world, God the Son (Jesus)

saves the world from sin, and God the Holy Spirit gives and strengthens our faith. Middle schoolers comprehend that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save them from sin and grant them eternal life.

*“They can talk to God through prayer at any time, anywhere.”*



## WHO AM I? WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Middle schoolers know they are chosen and rescued from sin through Jesus’ death. They recognize that they need His forgiveness and that God designed them to follow Jesus’ example. Middle schoolers understand that God gives them talents, gifts, and purpose. They recognize that their “neighbor” includes coaches, parents, peers, and strangers.



## WHERE IS GOD? HOW DO I INTERACT WITH HIM?

Middle schoolers know that God is always with them. They know they can talk to Him through prayer at any time, anywhere and that the Bible is God’s direct message to them. Middle schoolers know God was present in their Baptism when He gave the gift of faith and promised them eternal life with Him. Through Holy Communion, students know that God forgives and strengthens them with His continual presence.



## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH?

At church, students hear God’s message in Scripture. They see family and friends who share beliefs and encourage one another. In Bible study, students have a safe place to ask questions and find real answers about God and their faith. God gives middle schoolers direction and wisdom through DCEs, teachers, and volunteers that spend time with them.



## WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US?

In God’s powerful love, middle schoolers recognize that God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die for them and the whole world. God freely gives the gift of faith—it’s nothing that can be earned, bought, or obtained on merit. Middle schoolers know that God cares about them, their day, their feelings, their friends, and their future. They know that God daily gives them the strength to be a good student, son or daughter, and friend.



## HOW DOES GOD WORK THROUGH PEOPLE?

Middle schoolers are called to respect their parents and teachers. Middle schoolers are called to do their best in school and treat their peers with love and kindness. At church, middle schoolers can appreciate the time they spend learning and worshiping while also serving others with the special gifts God gives them. In the world, middle schoolers are called to follow Jesus’ example as they make decisions and interact with friends.

# Activities

## APPS AND MEDIA

Don't be afraid to use your phone or other digital device with apps as a tool—it's a great way to speak at the middle schoolers' level. Search and download apps for scavenger hunts, icebreaker games, Bible trivia, or text surveys. (Remember, at this age, not all students will have a digital device. Include everyone by doing things in a group or providing a computer or iPad as necessary.)

## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Brainstorm a list of random acts of kindness with students and challenge them (in groups or individually) to complete their list before the next time you meet. Ask them to record their interactions or take pictures of themselves doing their acts of kindness.

## INTERVIEW A CHRISTIAN

Create a simple question-and-answer sheet (or have students come up with their own) and allow students to choose an adult Christian mentor to interview. Consider making it more challenging by excluding family members and church staff, or create your own twist. What does a mature and growing faith in Christ look like? Think about which adult mentors are put in the path of these teens at your church and help them make connections.

## BOX OF RANDOM OBJECTS

Often, youth rooms have a box full of random (and possibly silly) objects or props on hand. Such a box can come in handy for any lesson with this scenario: have each student reach into the box and choose one item. Ask them how they can share God's love using that item. Use the items in the box for skits, talking points, or other object lessons to help encourage middle schoolers to think on their feet.

## About the Author

Kaitlin (Unruh) Bauer is a DCE (CUC '09) and has served in two calls with her DCE husband, Jeremiah. God has taken them and their two boys from Indianapolis to Florida to Texas. For ten years, Kaitlin has focused on confirmation and children's ministries. She resides near Dallas and enjoys watercolor painting, fall weather, music, volunteering, and being a stay-at-home mom.