



*Emerge is the Student Ministry of the Gathering.*

*Vision :: To be a gathering of students growing toward God.*

*Mission :: To inspire students to develop an intimate CONNECTION with Jesus Christ, experience authentic COMMUNITY with other believers and demonstrate genuine COMPASSION to a broken world.*

## ...:PARENT CONNECT NEWSLETTER::...

**G'day Parents!**



### **VOICES: Series Overview**

This is going to sound weird, but every one of us hears voices in our heads. It's the voices that say, "Life would be easier if only I could or had . . ." It's the voices that whisper when we look in the mirror or compare ourselves to someone else. These voices are trying to lead each one of us somewhere, but is it somewhere we really want to go? Or is there a better voice to follow? Yes, there is a voice that has our best in mind. A voice that knew us before we uttered our first cry. A voice that is designed not to bring out the worst in us, but the best.

### **THE HOME XP**

*The Home XP is a way to help a parent and student connect through dialog or shared experiences, and a way for our ministry to encourage parents as well.*

It's no secret that middle school and high school students are dealing with identity issues. They want to know who they are, why they matter and where they fit in. The trouble is that while their natural self-awareness is heightened, comments that are intended for discipline and correction are easily interpreted as personal character attacks.

Maybe this sounds familiar? You are frustrated because your son brought home a progress report showing multiple homework zeros. You try to correct him, but he gets defensive and starts telling you that he's sorry he's not smart enough for you or sorry you think he's such a worthless son. Maybe nothing so dramatic has happened in your house, but that doesn't mean the potential isn't there—it may be just under the surface.

Discipline and correction are an important part of parenting, and they sometimes seem almost impossible with a teenage son or daughter. But don't give up. Your child needs you to be involved and alert to what is happening in his or her life, and actively correcting behaviors that could lead your child to places he or she doesn't want to be. However, the language you use when correcting him or her can make a big difference.

Because we are human, we are wired to react to our children out of frustration when we see them making choices that are inconsiderate, lacking in self-control or potentially self-destructive. When we respond this way, we often make “you are” statements: You are so lazy. You are so selfish. Or we will make broad sweeping “you never” and “you always” statements. What we really intend as correction ends up sounding a whole lot more like an attack on the value and worth of our child.

Understand, we all do it. It’s just a natural reaction to the frustration and hurt we feel as we navigate the tumultuous waters of adolescence with them. But there are better words for us to choose.

This month, try to be especially alert to the words that you use when correcting your son or daughter. You may need to allow yourself time to step back from a particular situation before you enter into a correctional conversation. That’s okay. You can let your child know you are going to discuss it after dinner, or tomorrow when you come to pick them up from school. Then when you do have the conversation, try to use specific language to address the behavior that you want to correct. You can think of it as using “You are doing” statements. Words that let them know that while what they have chosen to do or say in this particular instance is not okay, that doesn’t affect who they are, how you love them and whether you believe the best about them.

When you are intentional about the words you use when you discipline, you can have a positive impact on your son or daughter’s self-image and also help them make wiser choices.

Parents... we would love to hear your success stories. If you have something to share that you feel may be an encouragement for all, please feel comfortable sharing your story. Send us your stories [here](#).

## EVENTS

**CAPTURE THE FLAG - AFTER DARK! (MS):** Friday, November 7, 7:00—9:00 PM. Capture the Flag is a game of infiltration, precision, and tactical surgical covert ops. Since it will be dark when we play capture the flag, we will use glow sticks instead of flags. Glow sticks, hot dogs, pop, desserts and hot chocolate provided. Click [here](#) for directions.

**DINNER 4 TEN (HS):** Saturday, November 15, 6:00—8:00 PM, we’re inviting HS students. Every month I want to have ten students over to my house for dinner. It’s one way to make our big group small. It’s also a perfect way for those who don’t know many (or anyone) to meet our staff and make new friends. Please RSVP. Email, call or text Jake’s cell (937) 474-6308 to let us know you’re attending. Click [here](#) for directions to Jake’s house.

**TURKEY BOWL – FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNNEY (CHURCH ACTIVITY):** Friday, November 28, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM at Yankee Park. Cost is \$10 per team. Get your family and friends together and come play in our 7 on 7 Flag Football Tournament. Click [here](#) for registration and rules. Click [here](#) for directions.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to partner with you as we help your family grow towards God!

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