

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 11/8/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-34

LESSON: Age of Anxiety (Part 2)

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- **Read Matthew 6:19, 26.** These two verses show us both sides of reality: 1. The world is broken, 2. God is good. Anxiety wants us to focus only on the first part.
 - Where do you see brokenness in your life or in the world right now?
 - Where do you see God at work in the world? (even in things as simple as: birds have food everyday.)
 - How can you trust God is at work even when it's difficult to see?
- **Read Matthew 6:26-27.** In this passage, why does Jesus speak in both a compassionate way and a rebuking way, sometimes in the same sentence?
 - Is it easier for you to speak the hard truth someone needs to hear or to be compassionate and give them the encouragement they need? (*Parents go first!*)
 - Why do we need a balance of both encouragement and correction?
- **Read Matthew 6:33.** What are you "seeking first" right now?
 - Potentially helpful diagnostic questions:
 - What do you worry about the most often?
 - What do you daydream about?
 - Fill in the blank "If _____ happened, then my life would be good."
 - What types of things do you get most excited about?
 - What do you want to think about, read about, watch movies about, etc.?
 - How is Jesus' kingdom better and more reliable than whatever else we seek first?