

# Show Notes - January 2022 Episode: *Engaging and Partnering With Parents*



## **SHOW OPENING (JM)**

Welcome to Let's Chat, an ongoing conversation with youth workers and leaders about student ministry and whatever else we end up talking about. Thanks for joining us!

Today's episode will focus on **ENGAGING & PARTNERING WITH PARENTS** and as part of our discussion, we're going to be talking about how to connect with the parents in your ministry in ways that are helpful as well as pointing out what kinds of resources you can provide to parents that will make you look like an absolute rock star!

I'm your host, J.M. McGinnis and today I'm thrilled to be joined via Zoom by:

**Amanda Ballmer** - High School Pastor at Flint Central Church of the Nazarene in Flint, MI

**Bailey Medley** - Student Ministries Pastor at The Naz Church in Grove City, OH.

**David Eaton** - President and Cofounder of Axis - an organization providing a variety of resources to parents and youth workers designed to translate culture into useful tools.

## **EPISODE PREVIEW (HOST)**

On this episode we're going to be asking. . .

- o Why is it important to engage parents as the youth leader?
- o What have you done to intentionally equip parents in your ministry?
- o Have you ever felt any resistance or apathy among parents when it comes to engaging them in your ministry? How do you handle that?
- o And what are the best tools you've incorporated into your ministry we can point our listeners to?

## **HOST OUTLINE / QUESTIONS:**

- **Why is it important to engage parents as the youth leader? (Amanda)**  
Parents are the most influential people in our students lives. They've been there before our influence and after our students graduate.
  - o What happens if we don't?
    - It's easier as a youth leader to focus just on the students, but it's essential that we connect and engage with their parents. If we aren't consistent and present in the everyday moments, we may never hear from them in their big crisis moments.
  - o What are some of the other, less helpful options?
- **What have you done intentionally in your ministry to engage and equip parents? (Bailey)**
  - o How do you adjust your programming, communication, or resources?

- **Have you ever felt any resistance or apathy among parents when it comes to engaging parents? How do you handle that? (David)**  
We can often create this image of parents as distant - like if they only call in crisis or parent conference times. If we only experience parents in these settings, it can be easy to breed negativity or draw false logic or conclusions. (ex. They don't read my emails, they don't participate). See parents more than the worst case scenarios. Parents are genuinely trying their best.
- **What would you say to the youth worker out there who's listening thinking "Yeah, but the parents connected to our ministry just DON'T GET IT!"? (Bailey)**  
Try not to get discouraged - it takes time. Maybe there's an adjustment that needs to be made in your leadership, communication plan, etc. in order to help the parenting generation to "get it". Or maybe, a conversation needs to be had with the parenting generation to see what would help them understand it better. Every person and family is different, be willing to be patient, gracious, and try new ways to connect.

### **LET'S GET PRACTICAL: (Takeaways)**

- **What about practical tools? What are some best practices or practical tools we can pass on to our listeners today? (Amanda)**
  - Build Trust - texting parents, consistent and clear emails, connecting on social media, working with student's small group leader, etc.
  - Resource Parents - Axis is a given with their Parent Guides, Culture Translator, and Conversation Kits. Resourcing them with other parents by having events and engaging on social media. This shows parents they are not alone. Send resources - be proactive
- **We have one in particular we would all recommend: AXIS! David could you tell us more about Axis and how what you do can help us connect with parents?**
- **How have you used AXIS in your ministries? (Bailey and Amanda)**

### **AMANDA'S NOTES:**

- **Weekly** - Culture Translator and Culture Translator premium - parent would then post a question or discussion on our private parent facebook page (I like the consistency of this email - 7:00am on Fridays)

- **Monthly** - Gather for Conversation Kits to work through themes - reiterates ME TOO for parents as they connect with other parents, we can practice how we enter into these conversations. Hope was that parents would go home and watch all of the videos with their students. Some did, others didn't, others pulled it out when they needed it (often parenting out of a need to know basis)
- **Twice a year** parent sumits
- **Parent Guides QR** code wall / section (AXIS app makes make access more accessible)
- **Teens felt a difference** when parents were engaged with Axis

## DAVID'S NOTES

## BAILEY'S NOTES:

**J.M.'S NOTES** - How important is it to be culturalists?

## NEXT STEP

*What are some resources we could point our listeners to who'd like to know more about Engaging and Partnering with Parents?*

## SUMMARY

Host summarizes the discussion in a few sentences and then transitions into the show closing.

## SHOW CLOSING

Thanks for joining us on Let's Chat!

Check out the links on the podcast tab at [nyiconnect.com](http://nyiconnect.com) for resources and more episodes!

- **FEATURE**
  - For more on ENGAGING AND PARTNERING WITH PARENTS check out [NYICONNECT.COM](http://NYICONNECT.COM) for blog posts and more.
  - AND, if you'd like to download the resources we talked about, visit the show notes for this episode at [NYICONNECT.COM](http://NYICONNECT.COM)
- **And if you enjoyed today's episode, we'd love for you to . . .**
- **ASK**
  - Comment on the podcast! It lets us know who is listening out there and gives us the opportunity to connect and get feedback from you!
  - If you have a friend who came to mind as you were listening to this episode who needs to hear this conversation, you can share the link with them or on your social media.
- Until next time, thanks for listening!