



**BUILDING
FAITH
THAT LASTS**

**Frequently
Asked Questions
(FAQ)**





Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WHAT IS A 5:1 CHURCH & THE 5:1 CIRCLE?

A 5:1 Church simply means that the Church is making a cultural and strategic shift to see that every teen with the support of their parents (and parents for younger kids) are intentionally inviting five caring, Christ-centered adults to intentionally invest into their spiritual growth with regular day-to-day connection points – known as a 5:1 Circle. These relationships are organic, spiritually nurturing, and overseen by parents rather than a formal church program.

A 5:1 Circle is not to be a program of the local church that has chosen to be a 5:1 Church. For many 5:1 Churches, there will still be their regular Youth and Kids Ministry Programs, which are different than the 5:1 Circle.

When it comes to 5:1, it isn't a program, it is an organic discipleship experience led by youth supported by the parents. There is no set curriculum or leaders providing oversight for the 5:1 discipleship experience, nor is there a specific day, event or location that this happens at. Rather, this discipleship happens as determined by the parents with their teen/child, who intentionally invite Christian Adult investors to regularly share life with that young person and helping them grow in their faith formation and understand what it means to follow Jesus in their everyday life.

WHY IS BEING A 5:1 CHURCH IMPORTANT?

It reflects the biblical vision of intergenerational discipleship, ensuring every child and youth is surrounded by a network of older trusted Christians to provide support, wisdom, and spiritual encouragement. Research also reveals that these relationships are one of the common denominators in young adults who continue in their faith formation after their post-secondary years.

WHAT ROLE DO PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLAY?

Parents are the gatekeepers of the 5:1 Circles. They help identify, vet, and guide the adults who invest in their child's spiritual journey.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THIS MODEL?

Youth, especially in high school, are encouraged to reflect on trusted adults and invite them into their 5:1 Circle—with parental guidance and support.

WHO ARE ADULT INVESTORS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Adult investors are Christ-following adults who are invited by parent(s) or teens to intentionally share life with a child/youth—offering presence, encouragement, prayer, and spiritual support under the oversight of the youth's parents while also being open to learning and growing in their own walk with Jesus as influenced by sharing life with the one they are mentoring.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MINISTRY LEADERS?

Ministry leaders (e.g., children's ministry leaders, youth pastors, Sunday school teachers) educate youth about what the 5:1 Discipleship experience is, encourage reflection on what they are learning from their 5:1 Circle, redirect youth to parents for who is making up the 5:1 Circle, support parents in ensuring each young person has a meaningful 5:1 Circle, and collaborate with senior church leaders in raising the importance of every young person having Christian adults actively investing in their lives.





Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

HOW DO SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS SUPPORT THE 5:1 CHURCH DIRECTION?

Senior church leaders advocate for intergenerational discipleship, equip parents on how to vet, discern, select and manage Christian adults they invite into your child's life, resource investors on how to disciple youth in the moments of the everyday encounters of living life as a follower of Jesus, promote a culture of investment of adults into the lives of the next generation as a biblical mandate, and ensure safety and alignment with church values.

IS THE 5:1 CIRCLE A CHURCH PROGRAM?

No. It is a relational and community-driven approach to discipleship, which is supported and overseen by the parent and not a formal program of the church. It relies on individuals and families taking initiative to seek out Christian adults who will be part of youth/child's 5:1 Circle – within a supportive church culture that endorse this method of discipleship.

CAN ADULTS LEARN FROM YOUTH IN THIS MODEL?

Absolutely. The 5:1 relationship are mutual. Adults also grow spiritually and relationally through their connection with youth. The reality is that to effectively minister and mentor the next generation, adults need to be willing to be vulnerable and authentic in their interactions with the next gen and be open to listen and learn from them.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS SAFETY ISSUES?

Adults in the 5:1 Circle are similar to other adults, parents invite into their child's life (e.g. sports coach, arts teacher, etc.). It is the parent's responsibility to ensure they trust the adults in the 5:1 Circle and that the parent is setting the boundaries and expectations of how that relationship is managed. The church is not responsible for vetting the adults on behalf of a parent. 5:1 Circles are not a program of the church but of relationships forged and managed by the teen and parents, separate from the church but are an implementation of what the senior church leaders teach should happen as a means of effective discipleship to the next generation,

HOW DO YOUTH WHOSE PARENTS DON'T ATTEND A CHURCH INVITE ADULTS INTO THESE 5:1 CIRCLES?

The parents of youth who don't attend a church are still the primary caregiver for that child. The church (including senior church leaders, ministry leaders and adult investors) needs to have those parents be part of that decision-making process. A church may need to establish trust with that parent before a 5:1 Circle can be formed that involves any adults from within the church mentoring that young person outside of any designated kids or youth programs existing in the church. If a young person's parents are not part of the church, then that young person on their own doing make seek out 5 adults to invest into them, but that is organic and on their own doing and should be encouraged to do in collaboration with their parents.





BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

5:1 Church
Discipleship Model
– Summary





5:1 Church Discipleship Model – Summary

In 2012, research revealed by Dr. Chap Clark and the Fuller Youth Institute showed that for a young person to continue as a follower of Jesus after high school, it would take on average, 5 (non-familial) Christian Adults actively invested in the holistic development of a young person and modeling what everyday life as a follower of Jesus looked like.

To respond to this, the shift in culture to see our CBOQ Churches become a 5:1 Church simply means that they as Senior Leadership are making a cultural and strategic shift to see that every teen with the support of their parents (and parents for younger kids) are intentionally inviting five caring, Christ-centered adults to intentionally invest into their spiritual growth with regular day-to-day connection points – these 5 invited adults investing into the life of a young person with the support of the parent(s) then creates what is called the 5:1 Circle.

What this means is that a 5:1 Church is not a program, there is no curriculum, rather this is about fostering a culture of discipleship of the next generation in which adults are sharing in the everyday lives of the next generation (not on a youth night, Bible study or small group) and modelling what it looks like to follow Jesus in their everyday life – sharing the highs and the lows.

These relationships are organic with parental oversight. The church equips, resources, encourages, and advocates for this culture of discipleship, and empowers the parent(s) and teen to manage what this discipleship looks like and with whom it is done.

This comprehensive discipleship formation must embrace intergenerational connections—driven both by individuals and the church community—where intergenerational ministry is the guiding ethos. This includes the 5:1 Circles 1 (individual-driven), a church of all ages (church-driven), and age-specific ministries (church-driven), working in harmony to foster holistic spiritual growth.

The parent/guardian is the “overseer” for these 5:1 Circles and this discipleship experience. This is not a program of the church; rather, it is an emphasis that is individually driven within families and with church members invited by those families to diligently be engaging in these 5:1 Circles.



1. PARENTS/GUARDIANS: GATEKEEPERS OF THE 5:1 CIRCLE

Parents play a vital role in identifying and vetting adult mentors based on character, consistency, and alignment with God's vision for that child/youth. They also would be connecting with the Adult Investors to set appropriate boundaries, having regular conversations, not to "spy" on their child/youth but to maintain an understanding of shared theology and faith positions. The role of the parent is to include children/youth in the process, especially empowering high schoolers to invite mentors, while maintaining oversight and continually checking in on the relationship and the experience. The 5:1 Discipleship experience is not someone owned or managed by the local church, rather it is a way of discipleship inspired and encouraged by the local church while the management and implementation of it is owned by the parents in connection with their child/youth and the adults invited in the 5:1 Circle.

See: 5to1_tip_sheet_parents.docx

2. ADULT INVESTORS: SHARING LIFE WITH YOUTH

These are trusted and respected Christian Adults (either inside or outside the local church) whom the Young Person and/or Parents have initiated this form of relationship and are willing to offer consistent presence, encouragement, and spiritual support in day-to-day moments and natural interactions. They would be encouraged to follow the Sharing Life model to guide levels of involvement and maintain healthy boundaries.

See: 5to1_tip_sheet_investors.docx

3. YOUTH: BUILDING THEIR 5:1 CIRCLE

Children and youth resonate with adults who they trust, respect, know and who believe in them. In concert with their parents, they will be inviting those adults into a 5:1 Circle relationship and be open to learn, grow, and be challenged in their faith development from those adults. High school youth are encouraged to reflect on trusted adults, invite them with parental support, and set expectations and boundaries. They play an active role in shaping their faith circle.

See: 5to1_tip_sheet_youth.docx

4. SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS: ADVOCATES AND EQUIPPERS

Senior church leaders (e.g. senior pastor, elders, deacons and board of directors) are the ones who emphasize the importance of intergenerational discipleship, ensure that 5:1 discipleship is a strategic driver of their church, actively seek to provide resources for parents, ministry leaders, children/youth and mentors and promote a culture of spiritual investment from Christ-centred adults investing into the faith formation of the Next Gen. These senior church leaders are not responsible to implement or manage 5:1 Circles or connecting the adults with children/youth, rather they are to speak to the importance of this form of discipleship, to foster intergenerational events and connections points within the church, to be encouraging parents to see this form of discipleship happen and to provide resourcing for those wanting to invest into the next generation.

See: 5to1_tip_sheet_church_leaders.docx

5. MINISTRY LEADERS: GUIDES AND CATALYSTS

Ministry leaders (e.g. children's ministry leaders, youth pastors, Sunday school teachers, Christian Education boards) play a vital role in supporting the 5:1 Church. They educate children/youth about the importance of 5:1 Circles, encourage reflection on who are those trusted Christian adults in their lives (both inside and outside the local church), redirect children/youth to parents as gatekeepers of the 5:1 Circle, supporting parents in the process, and collaborate with senior church leaders to foster intergenerational discipleship.

See: 5to1_tip_sheet_ministry_leaders.docx



**BUILDING
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**Gatekeepers of Faith:
A Parent's Guide
to 5:1 Circles**





Gatekeepers of Faith: A Parent's Guide to 5:1 Circles

The 5:1 Circle encourages five caring, Christ-centered adults to intentionally invest in the life of one child or youth. These relationships are meant to be organic, authentic, and spiritually nurturing — not programmatic. Parents are the gatekeepers of these relationships and they are the ones who manage the discipleship experience we are calling the 5:1 Circle.

A 5:1 Circle comes out of a 5:1 Church which prioritizes this way of discipleship.

A 5:1 Church means that the Church is making a cultural and strategic shift to see that every teen with support of their parents (and parents for younger kids) are intentionally inviting five caring, Christ-centered adults to intentionally invest into their spiritual growth with regular day to day connection points.

A 5:1 Circle is not a program of the local church who has chosen to be a 5:1 Church. For many 5:1 Churches, there will still be their regular Youth and Kids Ministry Programs, which is different than the 5:1 Circle.

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BEST PRACTICES FOR VETTING ADULT MENTORS/INVESTORS

1. Discern Character Over Charisma
2. Observe Their Interactions
3. Check for Alignment with Family & Church Values
4. Have a Conversation
5. Ask for References or Background Checks (You may choose to ask senior church leaders or ministry leaders their opinions about individuals. However, be aware that you have the final decision if you want this adult to be an investor in your child's 5:1 Circle.)
6. Start Small and Build Trust
7. Stay Involved





Gatekeepers of Faith: A Parent's Guide to 5:1 Circles

UNDERSTANDING THE BOUNDARIES

The adult investor does not report to the parent; they are accountable to the parent. The investor is not meant to reveal all details to the parent.

The parent can reassure their child the investor does not automatically share all conversations with the parent.

If there is information that should be shared with the parent, the investor gives the child the opportunity to share to the parent directly with the understanding that if the child does not, the investor can share with the parent.

If the child/teen ever shares anything that has legal implications, that could bring harm to themselves or others – that information is to be shared with the parents and that should be communicated with the adult investors you invited into the 5:1 Circle of your child.

ARRANGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

As you work with the adult investors, here are some considerations based on your child's and your comfort levels.

- Do you want them to meet digitally?
 - › With younger children, you can determine if you want to meet via platforms like Zoom. It is best if you are present during those meetings.
 - › With children who are older (especially if they have their own cell phone, messaging accounts or social media accounts), digital connections is one way for the adult investor to enter your child's world and way of communication. Consider if that includes certain modes of communication like texting and other platforms (e.g. Discord, gaming platforms, etc.).
- When meeting in-person, where do you want them to meet?
 - › For younger children, it may be better for you to be present especially for the first few times.
 - › If the adult investor and the child/youth are meeting 1-1, would you prefer they meet in a public location? At your home? At the adult's home?
- Are you comfortable with the adult investor driving your child?

There may be more specific contextual considerations for you to discuss with the adult investor.



Gatekeepers of Faith: A Parent's Guide to 5:1 Circles

CONVERSATION TEMPLATES

Parent → Child:

“Would you be open to meeting some people who could be part of your faith circle?”

Parent → Youth:

“Who are some adults you admire or feel comfortable with?”

Parent → Investor:

“We'd love for you to consider being part of [Child's Name]'s circle.”



BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

Sharing Life:
A Guide for Adult
Investors in a Young
Person's 5:1 Circle





Sharing Life: A Guide for Adult Investors in a Young Person's 5:1 Circle

The 5:1 Church is not a program or curriculum, rather a culture and way of discipleship that encourages a teenager (with support of their parents) or is led by parent if it is a younger person, to intentionally have five Christ-following adults whom they trust and respect to intentionally invest in their lives with the focus on their spiritual growth, but with a broader focus on how they can be following Jesus in their everyday and how following Jesus and his Word is relevant and true today.

The adult investor, who with the support of the Parents and Child/Youth is making time whether it be in person and/or online connecting with this young person while following the appropriate boundaries and checks that the parents put in place. This is a position of trust and one that needs to be rooted in honesty, authenticity, openness, and not only to model and share how they follow Jesus but also be willing to listen and learn from the younger person they are sharing life with. These relationships are organic, relational, and parent overseen.

BEST PRACTICES FOR APPROACHING PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. Respect the overseeing role of the parent.
2. Be clear about intentions. Establish what you would be sharing, where you stand on key positions theologically, express how you will be able to mentor and share life with the young person and what ways you hope you help the person you are discipling to growth and mature in their faith.
3. Invite dialogue and set up boundaries for appropriate conversation, timing for interactions and how you will relate with the child/youth.
4. Stay accountable to the parents and keep them in the loop. Create an understanding of what needs to be kept confidential forsake of the trust of the child/youth and what must be shared with the parent. Be sure to also have parental permission before contacting a young person.

WAYS TO SHARE LIFE¹ WITH A CHILD/YOUTH

1st Degree: Consistent Presence

2nd–3rd Degree: Casual Connection

4th–6th Degree: Intentional Mentoring

¹See cbqyouth.ca/sharinglife for examples.

UNDERSTANDING THE BOUNDARIES

The adult investor does not report to the parent; they are accountable to the parent. The investor is not meant to disclose all details to the parent.

The parent can reassure their child/teen that the investor does not automatically disclose all conversations with the parent.

If there is information that should be shared with the parent, the investor gives the child the opportunity to share with the parent directly with the understanding that if the child does not, the mentor can share with the parent.

There are some instances where information needs to be legally disclosed, or if there is concern the child/teen has harmed or will harm themselves or others, that the parent should be informed. The investor should be fully aware of what those obligations are².

TIPS FOR HEALTHY INTERACTIONS

Maintain boundaries: This is not a peer-to-peer friendship. It is an opportunity to support the child/teen in their faith formation and for them to see what it is like to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.

It is also critical that you are not just supporting, praying or teaching them but to best disciple a young person today, they need to see that there are ways they can pray for you, that they can support you and ways you can be learning from them. Avoid private settings: Ensure parents know where and when you are meeting with their child/teen. If a more private setting (e.g., driving the child home) is warranted, ensure you have permission from the parent.

Be a listener: Investing in a child is less about being the sage (i.e. imparting all your wisdom and knowledge into this person) but discerning with the child God's next steps for them.

Be rooted in Scripture. It is key that you continue to model what you share or live out for a young person, that you reinforce with them where it is in Scripture and how you are reliant on the Holy Spirit to guide you by God's truth that is revealed in His Word in the way you live and that it isn't simply by your own truth, opinion, or culture influence.

Model authenticity: You are not expected to be perfect; you are expected to exemplify your walk with Jesus as authentically as you can. Keep in mind that you are not meant to share everything with the child like you would with another peer; you can share appropriate examples of walking authentically with Jesus.

²See ontario.ca/page/report-child-abuse-and-neglect. You can also consult your church's child safety policy for best practices.



BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

**Developing
Your 5:1 Circle:
A Guide for Youth**





Developing Your 5:1 Circle: A Guide for Youth

The 5:1 Church is not a program or curriculum, rather it is a culture and way of discipleship that encourages a teenager (with support of their parents) or led by parent if it is a younger person, to intentionally have five Christ-following adults whom the young person trusts and respects to intentionally invest into their life with the focus on their spiritual growth, but with a broader focus in it being how they can be following Jesus in their everyday and how following Jesus and His Word is relevant and true today. The 5:1 way of Discipleship for you as a young person is about surrounding yourself with five trusted adults who care about your faith, your life, and your growth. You get to choose them, and your parents/guardians help guide those relationships.

BEST PRACTICES FOR INVITING ADULT INVESTORS

1. Think About Christian Adults (both inside your church and outside) Who you trust and would value having them actively involved in your life to help you grow closer to Jesus and to follow their example in how to live like Jesus.
2. Talk to Your Parents/Guardians to share which adults whom you think would be valuable in discipling you and ask your parents who you think they would recommend being investing into your spiritual growth. During this time, you should together be able to share the reasons for why certain adults would be the type of person you would trust, would be a godly example and someone you would be willing to learn and grow with.
3. After you have the support of your parents make the Invitation Simple and Honest. Express to the adult why you would value them speaking into your spiritual life, what you would want to learn from them and how sharing life together would benefit you as you grow closer to Jesus
4. Set Expectations Together. Be sure to share together how much time you would be looking for and ways you would want to connect (online, in person, at church, calls, text etc.). It would be good to also share how you would like to just be able to part of their everyday lives and sharing about your everyday life stuff (not just spiritual stuff) - so together you are investing into another on a holistic front. Walk through other expectations like having times for getting into God's Word, for walking through difficult stuff and for prayer for one another.
5. Keep Your Parents in the Loop. Be sure that you are letting your parents know the big topics you are talking about, whenever you are getting together, what your online interactions are like, and what you are getting out of the time of being invested in.



Developing Your 5:1 Circle: A Guide for Youth

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM AN ADULT INVESTOR

They will be honest with you. They need to be someone who can be authentic and vulnerable with you in sharing their experiences and life. At the same time, they need to be someone you trust enough to also challenge you on areas for growth and development.

They want to listen to you. They are there not just to model for you the ways of Jesus and tell you things to know to grow in your faith and to be praying for you, but that they should be listening to your stories, to your questions and to the ways that you will be praying for them.

They are not there to answer everything but to help you discern your answer. What this means is that they are not perfect in all ways. They do not have answers for every question, but they are there to listen to you as you have questions and concerns in your faith journey and they can point you to where together you can discover God's truth and answers.

They will not "rat you out" to your parents. If there is something they feel your parents should know (unless it is something they are legally bound to disclose, or you are putting yourself or others in harm way). What is important is that together with your parents and with them that you all agree that if there was anything that came up that the adult investor felt your parents needed to know that you will have the first right to disclose to your parents. However, if you choose not to disclose, the investor may discern if they should disclose and you need to respect that at times, they may need to include your parents. All of this is coming out of a place that this person believes in you, is for you and wants the best for you – and part of that is ensuring that your parents are looped into some key things.

CONVERSATION TEMPLATES

Youth → Parent

"Can we talk about whether [Name] would be a good fit?"

Youth → Adult

"Would you be open to chatting with my parents about being part of my circle?"



BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

**Senior Church Leaders
& the 5:1 Church:
A Guide for Pastors,
Elders and Boards**





Senior church leaders & the 5:1 Church: A Guide for Pastors, Elders and Boards

A 5:1 Church encourages parents (and their teens) to intentionally invite five caring, Christ-centered adults who they trust and would make time to invest into one child or youth – which then creates what is called the 5:1 Circle. This is not a program. There is no curriculum. Rather this is fostering a culture of discipleship in which adults are sharing in the lives of the next generation and modelling what it looks like to follow Jesus in their everyday life – sharing the highs and the lows. These relationships are organic with parental oversight. The church equips, resources, encourages, and advocates for this culture of discipleship, but empowers the parent(s) and teen to be the ones who manage what this discipleship looks like and with whom it is done by.

WHY IT MATTERS

Research coming out of Fuller Youth Institute showed that for a young person to continue on in the faith beyond their teenage years, they need to have a number of non-familial adults activity walking with them and showing them how to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. Faith formation is relational and communal. As the church, it is crucial then that we are supporting the parents and guardians as the part with their Children and youth to have multiple trusted voices of faith speaking into their lives. Parents need support, not replacement.

WHAT PASTORS & SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS CAN DO

1. Teach and lead the Vision of being a 5:1 Church on a regular basis from the pulpit, messages in the bulletin, reminders shared through church communications (like social media channels), questions that used with small groups and ensuring opportunities are created for intergenerational gatherings and interactions.
2. Equip, Train and Encourage Parents on how to invite trusted adults in the lives of their kids, how to set appropriate boundaries, how to have check points with those who are mentoring your kids, what it means to get feedback from your kids on how it is going, how to make time for kids/teens to connect with adults who could invest into them.
3. Encourage Adult Investors to seek out understanding on how to mentor the next generation, how to develop trust in the lives of kids & teens, how to listen well and live out a life focused on Jesus. Equip them on what it means to make time in their schedule to mentor someone of the next
4. Model It Yourself



Senior church leaders & the 5:1 Church: A Guide for Pastors, Elders and Boards

WHAT ELDERS, DEACONS AND BOARDS CAN DO

1. Advocate for the Culture of parents (and their teens) to intentionally seeking out Christian adults whom they trust (both within their local church context and beyond) to intentionally pour into the day to day lives of their children/teens for the purpose of their wholistic and spiritual growth.
2. Encourage Adult Investors to be making time in their schedules to invest into the lives of the next generation, to be learning what is means to mentor the next generation and to actively be listening to them, learning about their world, sharing how you live out Jesus in your every day life, the challenges of faith you've encounters and how you've grown. Moreover, to disciple this next generation, adults who are investing into them need to be authentic, vulnerable, honest and be willing to also learn from those there mentoring. They should also be encouraged to be a strong and regular prayer support for the person they are mentoring and have that person they are mentoring be a prayer support for them.
3. Create a Culture of Investment that would see each and every member in the church valuing the importance of sharing life with those younger than them and living out what it means to follow Jesus in our every day lives and moments
4. Support Ministry Leaders within your church in their roles. Encourage them to regularly encourage their children/youth to be looking for potential adult investors. These ministry leaders are on the frontlines in children/youth culture and are a valuable asset in helping parents and adult investors better understand the world of kids/youth. Also, remind ministry leaders while other people in the church may default to them to "spearhead" this culture, they are not responsible for directing / overseeing / managing a 5:1 Church or those 5:1 Circles.



BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

**Supporting 5:1
Discipleship:
A Guide for
Ministry Leaders**





Supporting 5:1 Discipleship: A Guide for Ministry Leaders

Ministry leaders—including children’s ministry leaders, youth pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian Education boards—play a vital role in supporting the 5:1 Circles.

Remember that the 5:1 Circle is about a young person (with their parents) inviting five caring, Christ-centered adults to intentionally invest into their life – outside the framework of structured programs – to mentor them in their faith formation in a consistent, ongoing basis with the emphasis on seeing how to follow Jesus in our everyday moments. These relationships are meant to be organic, authentic, and spiritually nurturing — not programmatic and not replacing the existing Kids & Youth Programs currently or those that could develop in our churches in the future.

Your role in a 5:1 Church is to come alongside parents and, under the guidance of senior church leadership, help you cultivate a culture where every child and youth understands the value of building meaningful, spiritually nurturing relationships with five caring Christian adults identified and supported by their parent(s).

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. EDUCATE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Help children and youth understand the purpose and value of having five caring adults in their faith circle. Teach that these relationships are intentional and spiritually formative, not programmatic.

2. ENCOURAGE REFLECTION AND OWNERSHIP

Prompt youth to consider: Who are the adults I trust? Who encourages my faith? Guide them in identifying potential faith companions. It is not your responsibility to “lead” or “connect” them to specific individuals.

3. REDIRECT TO PARENTS AS GATEKEEPERS

Reinforce that all adult connections must be made with and through their parents/guardians. Ministry leaders support the process but do not replace parental oversight and decision.

4. SUPPORT PARENTS IN THE PROCESS

Provide resources, encouragement, and clarity to help parents build and safeguard their child’s 5:1 circle. They may ask you about specific individuals. While you can offer your opinion, remind parents they can make the final decision about who is part of their child’s 5:1 Circle.

5. COLLABORATE WITH SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS

Align ministry efforts with the broader vision of intergenerational discipleship. Advocate for environments where these relationships can naturally form and flourish.

6. BE A RESOURCE FOR ADULT INVESTORS

You may know more about children/youth than the adult investors. Allow them to ask you questions about best practices.