

It's their last year with you—the “biggest year of their lives.” They may appear aloof and “grown,” but this is a vital time for offering your influence. What do they need most from us?

1 Hands—They may act like they have it all together, but only a small handful of overachievers have the rest of their lives figured out. Sit with them and think through who they want to be “when they grow up.”

2 Hugs—A hug is not always a literal embrace. Sometimes they just need someone to keep reminding them they are meant for more. The start of the school year is the perfect time to reassure them that God has this, and it's going to be alright.

3 Habits—What are they doing to foster their relationship with the Lord? Is it all wrapped up in actions or do they understand they are pouring into a relationship?

4 Hinges—You are the bridge between this last year of adolescence and young adulthood. When they look at their life on a college campus, what Christian organizations and resources could help them sustain their growth?

5 Help—Sometimes they just need practical help in how to fill out an application. Or perhaps they need your help discerning whether a year on the mission field is a better direction, or maybe they need help finding a trade school. How can you help them keep communication lines open with their parents?