

“I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.” -Proverbs 24:30-34

A G E G R O U P	The "Weed" (Habit)	The "Good Seed" it Chokes	Developmental Context	Car Ride Question	Inspiration and Insights
G R A D E 1- 2	The "Me- First" Weed (Entitlement)	Gratitude & Wonder	At this age, kids are transitioning from egocentrism. They can easily start seeing parents as "service providers" rather than people to thank.	"Who is one person (teammate, coach, or ref) who did something helpful today that you can thank before we get home?" (Be aware of your own entitlement and countenance which can transfer. Model gratitude and wonder.)	"Experience plays a crucial role in "wiring" a young child's brain." -Judith Graham, Leslie A. Forstadt "As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." -Ecclesiastes 11:5
G R A D E 2- 3	The "Quit- it" Weed (Low Resilience)	Perseverance	Mastery is a big deal here. When things get hard (like a missed layup), the weed of "I'm just not good at this" can take root quickly.	"What was the hardest moment of the game for you, and how did you keep your head in the game even when it felt tough?" (Celebrate great choices)	"Younger kids are learning how they fit into the world." -Jeff Land "Helping children make wise decisions is a critical goal for this phase of life. When adults praise a kid's...efforts, kids broaden competence." -Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy

G R A D E S 4- 6	The “Com- parison” Weed (Social Envy)	Identity in Christ	Peer groups become the primary mirror. They start measuring their worth by the scoreboard or the kid next to them.	1: “What is a 'hidden' play you made today that didn't show up on the scoreboard, but helped the team stay together?” 2: “When you saw [Teammate] do something great today, did it make you feel inspired or frustrated? Why do you think that is?” (Help them desire intrinsic maturity. Be on the lookout for little glimpses of growth and make it your mission to add value.)	“Our identity is not built on my record or my performance but on Christ's.” -Timothy Keller “I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.” -Philippians 1:9
G R A D E S 6- 8	The “Cynic- ism” Weed (Sarcasm/ Apathy)	Authentic Connect- ion	Adolescents use "coolness" or "checking out" as a shield. Sarcasm becomes a weed that chokes out sincerity and family warmth.	1: “I noticed you really locked in during [specific moment]. What was going through your mind then? It looked like you were truly enjoying the challenge.” 2: “If we stripped away the win or the loss, what is one thing about this game that you’re genuinely glad you got to experience today?” (Surround with trusted influences and service or volunteer experiences)!	“The youth who is not sure of his or her identity shies away from... intimacy.” -Erik Erikson “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” -1 John 3:1-2