



## Connecting with the “No Way Kid”

### **Description**

The No Way kid is resistant to church, Christians, and sometimes God. He is usually vocal about his feelings against Christianity, sometimes to the point of belligerence. We call him the No Way kid simply because this student is quick to tell you that there is “no way” you’ll ever see him at church. In middle school, if the parents bring him to church against his will, he would say that there is no way he would go to RSC or if he is forced to go in, there is no way he will participate.

### **Goal with the No Way Kid**

Our hope for the No Way kid is to **befriend** him, **listen** to him, and **try to figure out** why he is so bitter against church or Christianity in general. Once we build a relationship, we hope he’s willing to check things out by engaging in spiritual conversations, go to something where these conversations can happen or expose them to God’s truth. (RSC or a camp)

### **How would they describe themselves?**

Most No Way kids aren’t verbal about their objections to God or the church, but their minds are usually made up. “There’s no way you’ll ever get me to your church thing.”

### **Special Notes about No Way Kids**

These are probably the most difficult to connect with out of all types of students. They are usually not on our turf. We have to find them. They are also probably suspicious of us. If they know you want to share God’s love with students, they don’t want any part of it.

Good news is this: once you build a relationship with a no way kid, they usually open up over time.

### **How do you connect with No Way kids?**

No way kids don’t need to be argued with. They don’t need to be shown how wrong they are theologically. They need one thing from us, a caring relationship.

- Find venues for first contact.
  - o We will connect with some No Way kids because parents may have forced them to come to RSC. But this is a small percentage.

- There may be some at church services: hanging out in the lobby or café during a service.
- Most are on their turf: at sporting events, concerts, the mall.
- Best way I connect with these students: go to a school event that one of our current students invites us to. After the event, I make sure to tell the student how great a job they did, and if their friends are around I make a quick introduction. If they want to talk, great, but I never force anything. Just there for the opportunities. (Also a great way to connect with parents!)
- Initial Greeting
  - Remember to be yourself!
  - Be ready to answer questions.
    - Why are you here? I came to see my friend (Student's name) in the play. Who are you? What was your role? What are some fun things to do around here?
- They may try to shock you.
  - They might try to do or say something to get you uncomfortable if they know you are a youth leader. They are testing you and seeing how you will respond. I have had girls just come up to me and say, "I'm bi" seeing how I would react. In moments like that, I would just say, "I'm Tyler, how are you?". Key tip: don't show shock or surprise. Listen and care.
- Be ready to learn names.
  - Once a student tells me their name, I try to use it as quick as possible in a conversation so that I can try to recall it.
- Be ready with break the ice questions.
  - What's fun to do around here?
  - What are some things you are into?

Jonathan closes with this on the No Way kid, and I agree....

"In my personal ministry with middle and high school students, I almost never engage in debates about Christianity, Christians, and the church. I've found most students use them as excuses for real objection, they don't want to change the way they live their lives. Furthermore, I have achieved much better results by just being a friend. Being a caring adult opened the door to very comfortable and real spiritual discussions where I was given the opportunity to help students find and follow God."