



## 4 TIPS TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU LEAD YOUR STUDENTS

You show up to Switch consistently, but your students don't seem to be making progress. You challenge them to do a Bible Plan, and they ignore it. You try to have meaningful discussion during small group time, but your students can't settle down enough to answer even one question. What do you do as a leader when your students are in a spiritual rut? We know it's easier said than done, but have patience because ***progress takes patience.***

We have to celebrate the small wins along the way and champion our students even when they seem disengaged. Your students may be making bigger spiritual strides than you realize, so reframe your perspective and remember that you may be the only caring adult a student sees. So how can we help our students take next steps in their faith journey?

1. **Get to know your students.** Your students need to know you care about them before they'll trust you to help them. Have you taken time to really get to know them? Do you know what their family is like, who their friends are, what they're struggling with, and what hobbies they enjoy? If not, find out. Don't worry about getting through a bunch of questions or reteaching them the message. Make it your goal to get to know your students now so that you can build trust later.
2. **Get to know your students.** Seriously. This tip is so important we had to include it again. Life change happens in trusted relationships, so start building those relationships with students by getting to know them.
3. **Challenge them to take a next step.** You may be the only person investing in the spiritual life of a student. So, help them out! Show them some next steps they can take to grow their faith and start owning their faith for themselves.
4. **Champion them where they are.** Recognize students may be in very different stages, and that's OK. Find action steps that meet them where they're at. Some students may be ready to start Swerving on the weekends, invite more people to Switch, or memorize more Scripture. Other students may have a goal to not miss a week or to stop getting detention at school. No matter what it is, help celebrate the progress—big or small—your students are making because what gets rewarded gets repeated.

And above all, have patience. When you recognize each student has a different next step, you can stop comparing their success with other students' success. Progress takes time, but your investment in their life has ripple effects that could change their lives forever.

**Talk through these discussion questions with your fellow leaders and Switch team.**

1. What are some tips you have about getting to know your students outside of Switch?



2. What are some examples of next steps you can challenge your students to do? Have you had any success with those? What happened?
3. How can you make it a habit to champion students where they are?
4. What are some ways you stay motivated when your students don't seem to be making progress?
5. What's your "why" for sticking it out in Switch? How can you use that to fuel you each week?