

What's something someone could have done for your parent when you were growing up that would have helped them be a better parent?

Apologize for church hurt.
—Dallas

Tell parents that it's ok to be angry and stressed and upset and provide resources to find a healthy way to express those feelings —Pittsburgh

Equip them to have awkward conversations better (i.e. sex).
—Kansas City

Trained them on how to handle stress.
—Charlotte

As a child that is the product of divorce, I wish the church would've helped my parents to understand it's okay to struggle and not have it all together instead of hiding their marriage and parenting struggles behind closed doors. —Detroit

My single mother had financial support from the church to send us (three girls) to summer camp, but rarely supported her in the day-to-day life of a single mom. Me and my siblings went hungry many nights and spent many days alone because she was working so hard. I wish someone would have noticed. —Pittsburgh

Someone could have surrounded my parents in love and truth when they failed. Instead, they felt isolated and judged, and unwelcome. —Indianapolis

I wish someone would have taught them how to be empathetic. —Kansas City

Helping, supporting, encouraging parents of kids that have special needs. Having an ADHD son, we got a lot of shame from church for his behavior. Lots of shame for why he wasn't "behaving" - no empathy. Shame has no place in church—Charlotte

Encouraging my parents to find a way to pray with me and be more involved in my life. —Chicago

If someone could have helped them have the hard conversations about sex, gender roles, adulthood, even the hard questions about Jesus. Guiding them to allow my siblings and I to ask questions instead of avoiding them —Kansas City

Marriage counseling and anger management for my father. —Chicago

I grew up very fundamental, someone who could have given my parents resources to show me that the world and church is bigger than one perspective. —Chicago

In the Catholic church in New Orleans, my widowed mother was given so many resources to help her succeed. It was like living in a million-person village that helped raise us. I realize that 50 years later, the church has changed considerably. —Charlotte

Encouraging my parents to find a way to pray with me and be more involved in my life. —Chicago

I wish church leaders hadn't given up on them just because they didn't show up on Sunday. —Charlotte

→ With over 500 honest and personal responses, there were many that stood out. These are only a few.