

PARENTING TEENS



Overview:

Learn how to raise teens to think biblically in a secular world – through a little discipline, a lot of affirmation, and an extra helping of intentionality.

Lessons:

1. How to Use PG Resources with Your Teens
2. The 4 Keys to Raising Teens
3. 3 Tips for Loving and Affirming Your Teens
4. 3 Parenting Tips for Disciplining Teens



HOW TO USE PG RESOURCES W/ TEENS

Find discipleship resources at pursueGOD.org/Parenting-Teens

TALKING POINTS

Learn how our resources at pursueGOD.org can help you talk to your teen in a meaningful way.

- Parents, it's time to be _____. We make our kids do a lot of things they don't want to do so don't let _____ keep you from having family devotionals.
- The resources at [pursueGOD](https://pursueGOD.org) are based on some key principles:
 - The principle of _____: instead of lecturing your kids, have a conversation where your teenager can express their own thoughts and opinions and discover the _____ for themselves.
 - The principle of _____: the ultimate goal of parenting is that our kids leave the house with the _____ we've passed on to them firmly rooted in their hearts. That happens when your teen owns those values for themselves.

DISCUSSION

1. *Describe the best conversation or connection you've had with your teenager so far. What can you learn from the circumstances surrounding that interaction that set you up for success?*
2. *Do you feel comfortable talking with your kids about important issues and having conversations with them? Explain.*
3. *Do you think your kids feel comfortable conversing with you? Explain.*
4. *Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What does this passage emphasize for parents? How can you be more intentional about bringing God's word into your family life?*
5. *How have your lectures worked on your kids? Why is it important for you to listen to your kids' perspective?*
6. *Read Matthew 13:10-13. Jesus used parables as a way to capture the attention of his listeners. Explain how the principle of discovery can help to capture the attention of your teenagers.*
7. *Explain the principle of ownership. In what ways do you see your teenagers taking ownership in their life already? What are some things you want to see them own more?*
8. *What are some important topics you want to talk to your kids about but haven't?*

THE 4 KEYS TO RAISING TEENS

Find discipleship resources at pursueGOD.org/Parenting-Teens

TALKING POINTS

There are some key things to keep in mind when raising teenagers that will help you to focus on the big picture.

- Here are 4 keys for successful parenting:
 - Start with a _____. You need to decide the _____ you want to impart and then be _____ in how you bring those values to bear on your teens.
 - Be a good _____. Teenagers are trying to find their own voice and they want to feel heard by you.
 - Allow for some _____ from your teens within reason. Let your kids dabble in fashion, piercings or even colored hair if that is important to them.
 - Create clear _____ with your teenagers. Be specific about your _____ on matters like curfew, dating, grades and extra-curricular activities.

DISCUSSION

1. Which of the four keys in this topic need the most work in your parent-child relationship? Which needs the least work? Explain.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:2-3. How does this passage apply to parenting? How do you need to take more ownership in caring for your “flock”?
3. Read James 1:19. Why is it important to listen to your teen? What are some ways you can get better at this?
4. What are some “self-expressions” from your teen that have provoked an intense reaction from you? Explain.
5. “If you make every potential conflict over every little thing into a battle, you’ll lose the war.” Explain how this applies to parenting and whether you agree or disagree and why.
6. “Boundaries are not about punishment. Boundaries are about restricting your kids in some ways so that they can experience the best of life in the most important ways.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.
7. Read Psalm 19:7-9. What does this passage say about God’s rules and boundaries? How can you better communicate the purpose of your boundaries to your teens and explain that they are for their benefit?
8. What will be the long-term consequences for your teens if you don’t set good boundaries for them now?

TIPS FOR LOVING YOUR TEENS

Find discipleship resources at pursueGOD.org/Parenting-Teens

TALKING POINTS

Your kids need to hear and see how much you care about them.

- Showing love to your teens is imperative to their _____ and there are differing ways of doing it. Here are a few tips:
 - Speak love with your _____. Be _____ as to the things you admire and respect about your teens. Your words have power so use them for good.
 - Show love by your _____. Spend time with your teenager doing the things they love to do.
 - Celebrate each kid's _____. Praise them for their special traits and abilities and connect with each kid according to their _____. Don't assume that what works for one should work for all.

DISCUSSION

1. *What do you notice to be some of the challenges of loving and affirming your kids now that they're teens versus when they were younger?*
2. *Why do you think it's important specifically for dads to show love and care for their daughters?*
3. *Read Numbers 6:24-26. This was a prayer of blessing the priests would say over the people. How can your words and actions be a blessing to your kids?*
4. *Read Proverbs 16:24. How does praising your teens for specific things encourage their self-esteem?*
5. *If words of love and kindness are hard for you, what are some steps you can take to start using them more regularly toward your family?*
6. *What fascinates and enthralls you about your kids? What do you appreciate and respect about them? What are your hopes and dreams for them? How have they made your life more worth living? How can you communicate the answers to these sorts questions to your kids?*
7. *What are some of your teen's hobbies and interests? Are these some of your hobbies/interests, or does it require some effort for you to be involved in the things that matter to them?*
8. *Read Ephesians 4:32. How has God shown his love to you? How well do you show love to your kids? How could you improve?*
9. *Are you familiar with the 5 love languages? What would you guess is your teen's language? How can knowing their language help you love them more?*

3 TIPS FOR DISCIPLINING TEENS

Find discipleship resources at pursueGOD.org/Parenting-Teens

TALKING POINTS

Discipline can be hard but it is essential for your teen's development.

- We do our children a disservice when we lay aside our roles as parents and try to be _____ instead. It's our job to discipline our children, so here are three C's to help you parent with purpose.
 - Be _____. Make sure that you set expectations for your teens and be sure to clearly communicate those to them.
 - Be _____. Discipline is ineffective if you apply consequences some times but not all times.
 - Be _____. The consequence needs to make an impact on your teen so they're motivated to avoid the same mistake in the future.

DISCUSSION

1. *What was your behavior like as a teen? What similarities do you see between your teen and yourself at their age?*
2. *What were some of the boundaries your parents set when you were a teenager? Would you say that you discipline your teen in the same way your parents disciplined you? In what ways are you different?*
3. *Read Proverbs 22:15. What are some of the foolish things you see in your teens right now? How can discipline help to correct those?*
4. *Read Hebrews 12:11. What can happen if you don't discipline your teens? In what ways do we do our children a disservice when we try to be their friend instead of their parent?*
5. *Do you and your spouse always agree on how to parent and discipline? What do you do when you disagree? How would establishing boundaries help you compromise and co-parent better?*
6. *Give yourself a grade: how are you when it comes to being clear? Why do you grade yourself this way?*
7. *Give yourself a grade: how are you when it comes to being consistent? Why do you grade yourself this way?*
8. *Give yourself a grade: how are you when it comes to being corrective? Why do you grade yourself this way?*
9. *Read Proverbs 19:18. What does it mean to "discipline while there is hope?" How can failure to discipline your kid derail their future?*

NOTES



A series of 20 horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a template for writing notes.