

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 5

BIG IDEA: Our teenagers need to process the events of life from GOD'S perspective.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *What "life lessons" have you taught your teenager lately?*

- Meaningful interactions with our teens can be FEW and FLEETING, especially the more involved they become in "EXTRA" activities.

When do you find your teenager most open to interaction?

- A WORLDVIEW is "the framework from which we view REALITY and make sense of life" (Del Tackett, Focus on the Family) or "the sum total of our BELIEFS about the world" (Colson, How Should We then Live?, pg. 14)
- What kind of worldview do these people have?
 - Buddhist
 - Politician
 - 2 year old
- Establishing and MODELING a BIBLICAL worldview is the essence of a teen parent's RESPONSIBILITY.

The Family as a Theological Community

- "We must always ask questions about GOD, His WILL, and His WORK no matter what the subject or situation being DISCUSSED." (Tripp, pg. 54)
- It is IMPERATIVE that we embed the story of our teens in the LARGER story of God!
- Our teens need to see the mundane and magical events of life from God's perspective by learning to ask two questions:

- QUESTION #1 **WHAT, IN THIS SITUATION, ARE THE THINGS THAT GOD CALLS ME TO DO?**
- QUESTION #2 **WHAT, IN THIS SITUATION, ARE THE THINGS I NEED TO ENTRUST TO GOD?**

The Family as a Sociological Community

- Whether we like it or not, the family is the CONTEXT where our teens learn to love their NEIGHBOR as much as they do themselves!
- "Sinners are much better at making WAR than they are at making PEACE, much better at hatred than they are at LOVE." (Tripp, pg. 62)
- There are so many RELATIONAL events within the dynamics of a family that we are given many opportunities to discern whether our teens are governed by the RULE OF LOVE or the RULE OF DESIRE.

Can you name some of those events?

The Family as a Redemptive Community

- The harsh reality of human DEPRAVITY occurs within family relationships on a regular basis.
- The GOSPEL frees our teens from the chains of habitual sin and brings them "to the one place of HOPE and HELP, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Tripp, pg. 69)
- When we "CONFESS our faults to one another" (James 5:16), we model the Gospel before our teens.

Why is it difficult for parents to confess their sin in front of/ to their teen?

- It is in the HOME that our teens should experience the love, PATIENCE, and forgiveness of God that results from the Gospel's work in a redeemed heart.