

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 6

BIG IDEA: We need to become skilled at recognizing the _____ to lasting heart change.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: How well do you know your teen?

- Although teen behavior and perspectives are unpredictable in many respects, we do have some insight into both of them because we were _____ once!

What were some of your fears as a teenager? What was your most embarrassing moment as a teen?

Biblical Characteristics of Teenagers (Book of Proverbs)

- **NO HUNGER FOR WISDOM AND CORRECTION (Prov. 1:20-33)**

1. GOOD QUESTIONS: In what ways do I make _____ appealing to my teenager? In what ways do I make the _____ of correction sweet?
2. Practical Suggestions:
 - ☞ We can diffuse defensiveness by 1) _____ our actions, 2) by helping our teens examine their own spiritual _____, and 3) by _____ our sins against our teenagers
 - ☞ _____ your teenager
 - ☞ Make moments of wisdom and correction a _____ rather than a _____.

- **TENDENCY TOWARD LITERALISM (Prov. 14:22, 21:21)**

1. Godliness is humble, thankful _____ that causes us to _____ what God says and to _____ what God says.
2. Teenagers tend to emphasize the _____ of the law rather than the _____ of the law.

Care to share any illustrations?

3. The danger is that “literalistic” parenting leads to human _____, and that ultimately leads our teenagers to deny the need for God’s _____.

4. Practical Suggestions:

- ☞ Redirect _____ discussions
- ☞ Continually focus on _____ issues

- **TENDENCY TO BE UNWISE IN THEIR CHOICE OF COMPANIONS (Prov. 13:20, 18:24, 27:6)**

1. Friendships are very _____ to a teenager!

What are some ways teens respond to the concerns we might have about their friends?

2. Practical Suggestions:

- ☞ Approach a conversation about friends with _____ and patient _____
- ☞ Avoid _____, unwarranted _____, judgments of _____, and _____
- ☞ Ask good _____

- **SUSCEPTIBILITY TO SEXUAL TEMPTATION (Prov. 7:6-27)**

1. Get ready, your teen will _____ one day!
2. “Growth in understanding God’s way of sexual _____ is not something that can be accomplished in one _____.” (Tripp, pg. 86)
3. Practical Suggestions:
 - ☞ Don’t avoid the “_____ in the room”
 - ☞ View _____ choices with your teen
 - ☞ Never make it easy for your teen to _____ in this area!

- **ABSENCE OF AN ESCHATOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (Prov. 21:5)**

1. Most teens don’t think in terms of _____ gratification!

How does our culture subtly confine our perspective to the present, temporal “now” and rob us of an eternal perspective?

2. Practical Suggestions:

- ☞ Open a _____ account for your teen (60-30-10)
- ☞ Don’t buy _____ items for them
- ☞ _____ for a church ministry

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