

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 9

BIG IDEA: We must help our teens develop critical BIBLICAL THINKING skills.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: How often do you take advantage of the God-given opportunities to foster internal convictions in your teenager?

- A **clear boundary issue** is an issue to which God has CLEARLY spoken, where there is an obvious RIGHT and WRONG.
- A **wisdom issue** is an issue where there is no direct “thus saith the LORD” but to which Scripture speaks with a myriad of balancing BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES.

“Sneaking a peek” at the answer key before taking the test

Boundary Wisdom

Volunteering at a homeless shelter

Boundary Wisdom

Applying at DQ for a summer job

Boundary Wisdom

Working at a secular job during Sunday service times

Boundary Wisdom

Posting nude pictures on Facebook

Boundary Wisdom

Wearing sweat pants to a job interview

Boundary Wisdom

- “We can only teach our children to WISELY apply the principles of the Word to the issues of LIFE if that is what WE are seeking to do.” (Tripp, pg. 131)

Understanding Clear-Boundary Issues

- Real convictions are based on REVEALED truth; preferences are based on personal DESIRE.
- Real convictions are CONSTANT; preferences CHANGE.
- Real convictions demand FAITH; preferences rely on the

- DESIRE of the moment.
- Six characteristics of biblical convictions:
 1. A biblical conviction is always based on the STUDY of and SUBMISSION to the application of Scripture.
 2. A biblical conviction is always PREDETERMINED.
 3. A biblical conviction will not CHANGE with the circumstances.
 4. A biblical conviction is INFLEXIBLE.
 5. A biblical conviction is BOLD.
 6. A biblical conviction is always LIVED OUT.
- A Christian teen spends much of his/her life grappling with those situations where he needs to apply the PRINCIPLES, PERSPECTIVES, and THEMES of Scripture.

Look back over the situations on the previous page and note those that are wisdom issues ... what are some biblical principles that need to be considered in order to make a wise decision in that situation?

Strategies for Developing a Wise Heart

- See DIFFICULTY as a God-given OPPORTUNITY.
- Resist making the DECISION for your teen.
 1. Eph. 4:2 is the MODEL: “... with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love ...”
 2. Be willing to ENDURE the awkwardness!
- Draw out the HEART of your teenager.
 1. ASK good questions and withhold JUDGMENT.
 2. “You don’t need to harshly LECTURE someone who is OPEN, COMMUNICATIVE, and teachable.” (Tripp, pg. 139)
- “Your goal is not to demonstrate the breadth of your OWN wisdom, but to teach your child to THINK and LIVE wisely.” (Tripp, pg. 140)
- Don’t tell your teen EVERYTHING you’ve learned in one sitting!