

# Age of Opportunity

## Lesson 11

**BIG IDEA:** The FUNDAMENTAL and ULTIMATE goal of parenting is to produce teenagers who LOVE and SERVE God above all else.

**RHETORICAL QUESTION:** *In what practical ways are you being used of God to point your teen to love and serve Him?*

### REVIEW

- **GOAL #1** ... Help our teens RECOGNIZE that they're in a SPIRITUAL battle AND STRATEGIZE how to become a spiritual WARRIOR.
- **GOAL #2** ... Help our teens DEVELOP a heart of conviction and WISDOM.
- **GOAL #3** ... Teaching our teens to RESPOND biblically to the CULTURE around them:
  1. Wisely applying biblical PRINCIPLES
  2. Alertly identifying WORLDLY themes and philosophies
  3. REDEMPATIVELY engaging our culture
- **GOAL #4** ... Developing a HEART for God in our teens.

### This may not have happened yet because of ...

- FAMILIARITY - As fallen human beings who by God's design are now parenting teens, "we tend to TAKE FOR GRANTED the things that have been a REGULAR part of our lives." (Tripp, pg. 171)

*Name some important life lessons that you've learned and hope to teach your teen? How do you plan to do it?*

1. Probe for THANKFULNESS to God

2. Employ them in regular MINISTRY opportunities
- LIFESTYLE - "... the lifestyle of SEPARATION affects our ability to NURTURE our teenagers as God has called us to." (Tripp, pg. 174)

*What elements of "family life" have the potential of enabling this "lifestyle of separation"? How can parents combat it?*
  - HYPOCRISY - vocalizing a STRONG commitment to God but not living out that commitment CONSISTENTLY.
    1. Parents who talk about the sacrificial LOVE of Christ but live SELFISHLY are functionally denying the Gospel.
    2. Parents who talk of seeking GOD'S KINGDOM but are swept up by MATERIALISM are functionally denying the Gospel.

### A Few Strategies

- Use "Family Time" as a time for spiritual FORMATION.
  1. Deut. 11:18-21 requires parents to SATURATE the time spent with their children with the WORD OF GOD.
  2. "Family Worship" is a FORMAL time of spiritual teaching – use material that presents biblical CONCEPTS and PRINCIPLES in an engaging way.
  3. "Family Life" is an INFORMAL time of spiritual teaching – use the ACTIVITIES of the day as segues into biblical CONCEPTS and PRINCIPLES.
- Be ready to ask for FORGIVENESS.
- Make PRAYER a regular part of the day ... TALK about it, MODEL it, and ENCOURAGE it!
- Create an ATMOSPHERE for spiritual formation through the use of MEDIA.

*"If we accomplish nothing else, we want our children to know him, to value his love, to wonder at his grace, and to live for his glory." (Tripp, pg. 190)*