

# Age of Opportunity

## Lesson 12

**BIG IDEA:** Like it or not ... since the BIRTH of our children, we've been PREPARING them to leave home.

**RHETORICAL QUESTION:** How satisfied are you with the preparation you've made for your teen to leave home?

### REVIEW

- **GOAL #1** ... Help our teens recognize that they're in a spiritual battle AND help them strategize how to become a spiritual warrior.
- **GOAL #2** ... Help our teens develop a heart of conviction and wisdom.
- **GOAL #3** ... Teach our teens to respond biblically to the culture:
  1. Wisely apply biblical principles
  2. Alertly identify worldly themes and philosophies
  3. Redemptively engage our culture
- **GOAL #4** ... Develop a heart for God in our teens.
- **GOAL #5** ... Biblically prepare our teens to LEAVE home.

### When Are They Mature?

- Christ is the model for our preparation:
  1. ACCEPT - we don't compromise God's high standards for SANCTIFICATION, but we must greet the SHORT-COMINGS of our teens with the accepting GRACE of Christ.
  2. INCARNATE - we must model for our teens the CHARACTER of Christ in every facet of our life.
  3. IDENTIFY - although we function as a God-ordained AUTHORITY in the relationship we have with our teens, we must COMMUNICATE to them that we stand BESIDE them spiritually.

4. ENTER - we must make every attempt to UNDERSTAND the people, the pressures, the responsibilities, the opportunities, the TEMPTATIONS our teens face every day.

- "... the Bible presents maturity as a LIFELONG goal ... So what are we looking for here? ... we want to see SEEDS of maturity in their lives." (Tripp, pg. 198)
- Colossians 1:9-14 ... six characteristics of maturity in Paul's prayer:
  1. Sensitivity to GOD'S WILL
  2. FUNCTIONAL godliness
  3. Progressive spiritual GROWTH
  4. PERSEVERENCE
  5. An appreciation of God's GRACE
  6. KINGDOM awareness

### That Fruit Called "Maturity"

- Acceptance of personal RESPONSIBILITY

*In what areas of life do you want your teen to accept personal responsibility? How are you preparing them to do this?*
- Applied biblical CONVICTIONS
  1. "... the maturing teenager will erect his own MORAL BOUNDARIES." (Tripp, pg. 204)
  2. Trust is EARNED, not GIVEN ... teens are deemed trustworthy when they CONSISTENTLY display moral COURAGE and practical WISDOM.
- APPROACHABLE spirit

*How can we as parents foster this kind of attitude?*
- ACCURATE self-assessment
  1. Personal IDENTITY
  2. TEMPTATION
- Appropriate PERSPECTIVE on material things