

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 13

BIG IDEA: As parents of teenagers, we are **CALLED** to mirror the work of our **HEAVENLY FATHER**.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *How do you plan to accomplish the discipleship of your teen?*

- While discipling our teens we need to remember: “*what we observe about teenagers applies to **US** as well ... our teenagers are more like us than they are **UNLIKE** us.*” (Tripp, pg. 214)

What are the implications of this statement?

STRATEGY #1: Project Parenting

- “Project Parenting” means that teen parents remain **FOCUSED**, **PURPOSEFUL**, and **GOAL-ORIENTED** when it comes to the daily encounters they have with their teens.
- A wise pastor once said “*No one grows in **‘FUZZYLAND’**.*”
- Two things parents must focus on:
 1. Developing a **FEAR** of God
 2. Developing an **ACCURATE** view of themselves

What are some sources that our teens use to formulate their own assessment of who they are?

- Psalm 36:1-4 ... the direct result of a failure to develop in these areas is the inability to be **WISE** and do **GOOD**.

STRATEGY #2: Constant Conversation

- Hebrews 3:12-13 why should we be constantly conversing with our teenagers?
 1. In order to protect them from **REBELLION**,

unbelief, rejection of **GOD**, and the **HARDENING** of their hearts.

2. In order to prevent **SPIRITUAL** blindness.
- Some practical help:
 1. Don’t capitulate to the **DISTANCE** your teen has introduced to his/her relationship with you.
 2. Initiate meaningful **CONVERSATION** at times other than when your teen has done something wrong.
 3. **PURSUE** your teen even when you and your pursuit is not appreciated.

STRATEGY #3 – Leading Your Teen to Repentance

- “*What many parents mourn, as their children enter the teen years, is their loss of **POWER**.*” (Tripp, pg. 227)

Agree or disagree? Why?

- Four steps to leading teens to repentance and reconciliation:
 1. **CONSIDERATION** - helping our teens see things about themselves that they are **UNWILLING** or **UNABLE** to see.

Why does Tripp say that our teens will remain passive or become defensive if we declare what is wrong?

2. **CONFESSION** - helping our teens take ownership of their sin.
3. **COMMITMENT** - helping our teens forge a new direction in their behavior and their attitude.

Why are “statements of commitment” important?

4. **CHANGE** - helping our teens express their commitment in concrete and identifiable ways.
- “*Our job as parents is not to crank up our **CONTROL**, but to lead our sons and daughters to a heartfelt **SUBMISSION** to the control of the **LORD**.*” (Tripp, pg. 230)