

Age of Opportunity

A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens

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Part One : Clearing the Debris

1. Age of Opportunity or Season for Survival ?

A Biological View of Teens

Particular Sacrifice and Suffering ?

Battle of Biology or Battle of the Heart ?

The Struggles of Parents

Why We Miss the Opportunities

A Better Way

Recognizing God's Moments of Change

Little Moments, High Calling

Recognizing the Opportunities

Teenage Insecurity

Teenage Rebellion

A Teenager's Widening World

Rejecting the Cynicism

2. Whose Idols Are in the Way ?

Start with Your Heart

The Idol of Comfort

The Idol of Respect

The Idol of Appreciation

The Idol of Success

The Idol of Control

3. What Is a Family ? A Definition

The Family: God's Primary Learning Community

Getting to Know the Students

Children Are Covenantal Beings

Children Are Social Beings

Children are Interpreters

Children Behave Out of the Heart

4. What Is a Family ? A Job Description

The Family as a Theological Community

Every Moment Is God's Moment

Always a Higher Agenda

Their Story in God's Story

Trust and Obey

The Family as a Sociological Community

Rule of Love or Rule of Desire ?

The Family as a Redemptive Community

Life in the Fallen World

5. Parents, Meet Your Teenager

[Introduction]

What the Bible Says About Teenagers

No Hunger for Wisdom or Correction

A Tendency Toward Legalism

A Tendency to Be Unwise in Their Choice of Companions

A Susceptibility to Sexual Temptation

An Absence of Eschatological Perspective

Lack of Heart Awareness

Open Doors All Around

Part Two : Setting Godly Goals

6. Goals, Glory, and Grace

Awesome Power

The Gift of Glory

Everything We Need

7. There's a War Out There

[Introduction]

Regulating Behavior

GOAL 1 Focusing on the Spiritual Struggle

Qualities of a Spiritual Warrior

8. Convictions and Wisdom

GOAL 2 Developing a Heart of Conviction and Wisdom

**Understanding Clear-Boundary Issues
(6 characteristics of biblical conviction)**

**Understanding Wisdom Issues
(10 principles of Scripture)**

**Strategies for Developing a Wise Heart
(6 things to do)**

9. Life in the Real World

**The Smiths and the Joneses :
Two Typical Responses to Culture**

Rejection and Assimilation

What is Culture ?

**The Need for Protection
(table with 7 Themes (idols) of Modern Culture)**

Talking to Your Teenager About Culture

**What Is the Influence of Culture ?
(4 area of culture influence)**

Responding to Culture : A plan for OUR Teenagers

**GOAL 3 Teaching a Teenager to Understand and Interact Redemptively with His
Culture**

10. A Heart for God

Our Highest Goal

GOAL 4 Developing a Heart for God in Your Teenager

**What Has Gone Wrong ?
(3 possible answers suggested)**

Search Sour Heart

Signs of a Heart for God

**Signs of a Pursuit of God
(5 signs explained)**

**Strategies for Encouraging a Heart for God
(5 things to encourage a hunger for God)**

11. Leaving Home

GOAL 5 Preparing Teenagers for Leaving Home

Leaving the Home Too Soon

Four Verbs for Parents

**What Does Maturity Look Like ?
(6 characteristics from Col 1:9-14)**

**The Daily Fruit of Maturity
(5 practical fruit of biblical maturity)**

It's Just a Matter of Time

Part Three : Practical Strategies for Parenting Teens

12. Three Strategies for Parenting Teens

Strategy #1: Project Patenting

A Biblical Model

Strategy #2: Constant Conversation

Strategy #3: Leading Your Teenager to Repentance

13. Small Steps to Big Change

[Never give in to thinking it is too late]

[Stay calm]

[Keep the conversation open]

[Demonstrate how the Bible interprets, explains, and organizes life]

[Be willing to bare your own struggle]

[Keep Christ and his work central]

[You're a sinner. Don't act surprised at your teenager's struggle with sin]

[Identify the "voices" in your teenager's life]

[Plan for temptation]

[Make accountability your teenager's responsibility]

[Be a good listener and a good observer]

[Always keep the heart in focus]

[Do your biblical homework first]

[Always talk to your teenager lovingly and constructively]

[Our communication problems with our teenager exist not simply because of our child's character, but also because of our idolatry]

[Be willing to overlook minor offenses]

[Always deal honestly with your own attitudes]

[Expect, welcome, and respect differences]

[Look for opportunities to put your teenager in the decision-making role]

[Humbly admit your limits]