

### Teenagers (13-19 Years Old)

#### INTRODUCTION: TEENAGE YEARS

“Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22).

#### TEENAGE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

1. A teenager's widening world
2. Teenage insecurity
3. Teenage rebellion

#### WHOSE IDOLS ARE IN THE WAY?

1. Comfort
2. Respect
3. Appreciation
4. Success
5. Control

### PROVERBS: THE TENDENCIES OF YOUTH

#### 1. Little hunger for wisdom or correction

“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding; 3 furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God” (Prov. 2:1–5).

#### 2. A tendency toward legalism

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:5–6).

#### 3. A tendency to be unwise in their choice of companions

“The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov. 13:20).

#### 4. A susceptibility to sexual temptation

“My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen closely to my understanding 2 so that you may maintain discretion and your lips safeguard knowledge. 3 Though the lips of the forbidden woman drip honey and her words are smoother than oil, 4 in the end she’s as bitter as wormwood and as sharp as a double-edged sword” (Prov. 5:1–4).

#### 5. An absence of eschatological (or eternal) perspective

“Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, 8 because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit” (Gal. 6:7–8).

#### 6. A lack of heart awareness

“My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings. 21 Don’t lose sight of them; keep them within your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to one’s whole body. 23 Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life” (Prov. 4:20–23).

# Parenthood

## Lesson 15

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### HOW TO “PASTOR” OUR TEENS

#### 1. Keeping the main goals in view:

- a. Focusing on the spiritual struggle
- b. Developing a heart of conviction and wisdom
- c. Understanding and reacting redemptively with the culture
- d. Developing a heart for God
- e. Preparing our teens to leave

#### 2. Practical thoughts as we pursue the goals:

- a. Empathize
- b. Be deliberate and intentional
- c. Strive for constant conversations
- d. Ask questions
- e. Don't lecture

### PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON:

- Read “The Complicated Relationships Between Adult Children and Their Parents” by Jim Newheiser at [blog.newgrowthpress.com/the-complicated-relationship-between-adult-children-and-their-parents/](http://blog.newgrowthpress.com/the-complicated-relationship-between-adult-children-and-their-parents/)
- Read “Five Lessons for Young Families from a New Empty Nester” by Thomas Kidd at [thegospelcoalition.org/article/lessons-empty-nester/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/article/lessons-empty-nester/)
- Read “The Fruitful Empty Nest: Lessons for When the Kids Leave Home” by Linda Linder at [.desiringgod.org/articles/the-fruitful-empty-nest](http://desiringgod.org/articles/the-fruitful-empty-nest)
- Read “The Forgotten Ministry: The Influence of Our Grandparents” by Peter V. Deison at [voice.dts.edu/article/the-forgotten-ministry-the-influence-of-our-grandparents/](http://voice.dts.edu/article/the-forgotten-ministry-the-influence-of-our-grandparents/)