

# Preparing for LAUNCH

## Talk with your TEENS and YOUNG ADULTS

### 1. Important reminders concerning our children/teenagers/young adults

- **They were made for a Relationship with God**

- John 17:3
- Phil 3:8

“Children Are Covenantal Beings. Maybe you are thinking, what in the world does that mean, and how will knowing this help me to be a better parent of my teenager? Let me explain. When the Bible declares that children are covenantal beings, it means that children were made for a relationship with God. They were made to know, love, serve, and obey Him. Children were not made to live autonomous, self-oriented, self-directed, and self-sufficient lives. Everything a child thinks, does, and says was purposed by God to be done in loving submission to Him. This is the first and greatest commandment according to Christ (Matt. 22:37–38). This is the most foundational thing that can be said about the identity of children.”<sup>1</sup>

- **They were made to worship God**

- Psalm 66:1-4; Psalm 150:1-6; Isaiah 43:21; I Peter 2:9-12; Romans 12:1-2

- **They become like what they worship**

- Psalm 115:1-8; Isaiah 44:18-20
  - Spiritually dull and deceived
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
  - Become more and more like Jesus

### 2. Important Reminders Reinforce the Importance of Applying Key Parenting Passages

- Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

### 3. Helping our Teens Understand Clear Boundary or Heart Conviction issues:

- “Thus says the Lord” Clear boundary issues are the simple commands of Scripture, they are biblical convictions: It is based on what God reveals in Scripture.
  - Here are SIX CHARACTERISTICS of Biblical convictions
    - A biblical conviction is always based on a study of, submission to, and application of Scripture.
    - A biblical conviction is always predetermined.
    - A biblical conviction will not change with the circumstances. It is not responsive to outside pressure.
    - Biblical convictions are inflexible. True convictions have a nonnegotiable quality to them.
    - True biblical conviction is bold. There is a foundational confidence to it because it is based on the clear word of the Lord as revealed in Scripture.
    - True biblical conviction is always lived out. Conviction that is not lived, that does not rule my everyday life, is not really conviction.<sup>2</sup>

Often parents are so busy making decisions for their children that they do not impart to them the critical biblical thinking skills that will enable them to make sound choices after they have left the home. We need to be looking for opportunities to teach our children how to use the commands, themes, principles, and perspectives of Scripture to make sense out of life. To equip

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<sup>1</sup> Tripp, Paul David. Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens (p. 43). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

teenagers to determine how God would have them respond to the diverse situations of life, we need to teach them two things. First, they need internalized biblical convictions and applicable biblical wisdom. It is not enough to say “yes” and “no” to particular questions. We must show our children how we have arrived at the critical decisions that are so important to biblical living.<sup>3</sup>

#### **4. Helping our Teens Understand Clear Wisdom Issues**

- **When there is no clear “Thus says the Lord” our teens need to walk wisely in a confusing world. God gives wisdom from His Word and godly people.**
  - There is the principle of authority. Authorities in life (parents, bosses, governmental officials) are clearly presented in Scripture as ordained and appointed by God.
  - There is the principle of grace.
  - There is the principle of truth, even truth spoken in love.
  - There is the principle of the “higher agenda.” As a believer, he is called to work in such a way as to “make the Gospel attractive.”
  - There is the principle of wise counsel. The Scripture warns me against impulsive, independent decision-making. We are told that God will give wisdom to those who ask, without showing favoritism. And we are told that in the multitude of counsel there is wisdom
  - There is the principle of faithfulness or integrity.
  - There is the principle of the sovereignty of God.
  - There is the principle of the heart. Scripture, as we have earlier noted, teaches us that we “behave out of the heart.”
  - There is the principle of God’s glory. Our son was called to live for something grander than his own good, comfort, success, affluence, and ease.

#### **Discussion**

1. Describe a time in your life when you took a stand on something that was a clear boundary issue. Why did you do it? What was the outcome? What was your response to the outcome?
2. Describe a time in your life when you took a stand on something that was a wisdom issue. Why did you do it? What was the outcome? What was your response to the outcome?
3. List and discuss at least eight biblical principles that would apply to the following situation: Your daughter made the basketball team at the local public high school.
4. List and discuss at least eight biblical principles that would apply to the following situation: Your son has been accepted and will be attending a secular university.

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid