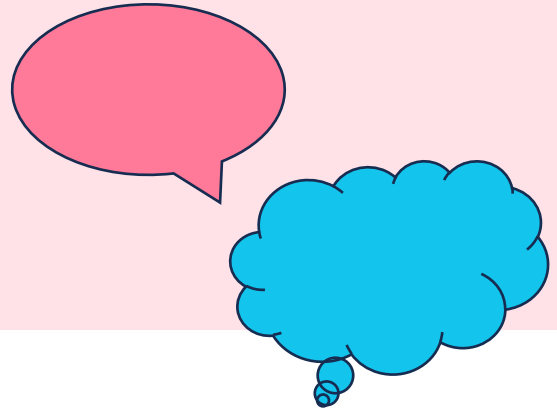


Communicating *with our teens*



How do we communicate with our teenagers?
Is our communication cultivating good connection or endless conflict?

FOUR KEY THOUGHTS . . .

1. _____ your teen.

Love shouldn't be the wrap-up to conversation or conflict, but the foundation. That's biblical. That's where God Himself started. And that's where we should begin, too.
Loving others is easier when I love God first!

2. _____ to your teen.

Listening is one of the primary ways we express care and concern for others. If we love our teens, we'll make time to really listen to them!

3. _____ about your teen.

Learning takes time. And problems aren't usually fixed in a day! Don't be afraid to pause a difficult conversation and come back to it later.

4. _____ your teen.

Leading our teenagers effectively in all areas of life requires that we first love, listen to, and learn about them.

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Provide godly direction. Cultivate what God has already instilled in them.

A FEW CAUTIONS . . .

1. Don't _____! Protect them – in person or online.
2. Be their _____, not their _____. You can hang and have fun with them while still being the parent!
3. Watch out for _____ in their relationships with others.
4. Pick your _____. Think: Is this really the hill I need to die on? Will this issue matter in the long run?
5. Choose your _____ wisely when possible (tired, hormonal, etc.).

FRIENDLY FEEDBACK . . .

Remember...

LOVE like Jesus. LISTEN intentionally with compassion. LEARN everything you can about your teenager. And LEAD them in godly living.

*“The goal of parenting isn't to create perfect kids.
It's to point our kids to the perfect God.”*

Lindsey Bell

Communicating *with our teens*



Communicate...



- To convey knowledge of or information about
- To cause to pass from one to another
- To share with each other
- To transmit information, thought, or feeling so that it is satisfactorily received or understood

Focus on the Family surveyed 5,000 adults, asking what they wished themselves and their parents had done differently during times of conflict in the teen years. Top Responses...

1. They wished their parents had listened more.
2. They wished they could have talked about their feelings more.
3. They wished they had talked to their parents more.

All of them involve aspects of communication!





*Your teen is
unique!*

Be wise and humble in how
you accept or give advice
to other parents.

Four Key Thoughts...



1. LOVE your teen.
 - God “so loved the world” that He sent His Son. John 3:16
 - Jesus showed love first to the unlovely before counseling them.
 - The two commandments Jesus gave us are (1) to love God and (2) to love others.

Loving others is easier when I love God first!

Four Key Thoughts...



2. LISTEN to your teen.

Listening is one of the primary ways we express care and concern for others. If we love our teens, we'll make time to really listen to them.

Are you a good sounding board for your teen?

Four Key Thoughts...



3. LEARN about your teen.

Pause. Take a time-out. Come back to the problem. Learning takes time!
Conflict isn't always resolved in one conversation.

Do you know what makes your teen tick?

Four Key Thoughts...



4. LEAD your teen.

Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (A godly mandate and principle, not a promise.) Provide godly direction. Cultivate what God has already instilled in them.

Leadership = Influence

Are you a godly influence in your teen's life?



“Leadership is the ability to
recognize the special abilities
and limitations of others,
combined with the capacity to
fit each one into the job where
he will do his best.”

Oswald Sanders

Your teen is unique!

A Few Cautions...



1. Don't OVERSHARE.
2. Be their MOM, not their PAL.
3. Watch out for VULNERABILITIES in their relationships with others.
4. Pick your BATTLES.
5. Choose your TIMING wisely when possible.

Friendly feedback?



Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
*and lean not unto thine own
understanding.*

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and
He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Let go. Let God.



Love.
Listen.
Learn.
Lead.

"The goal of parenting isn't to create perfect kids. It's to point our kids to the perfect God." Lindsey Bell