

Hope For Teens

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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Training Your Children

If there's one phrase that can frighten even the most confident parents, it's this one: *The Teen Years*. Our staff speaks with hundreds of parents as we hear stories of teenagers who've turned away from their faith or made terrible choices about sex, drugs, alcohol, theft, or violence... despite being raised in Christian homes. The parents of these teens continue their desperate search for the key which will help their children hold on to their faith despite the challenges of adolescence.

The question becomes,

"What steps can we as adults make to help children stay on the straight and narrow path?"



Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

-Proverbs 22: 6

With several distractions adverting this next generation, what is going to empower them to make the

choice to be "sold out" to Christ? I have observed and spoken with teens who continue to walk out their salvation daily, even when their peers make the opposite, destructive choice. I've noticed some common threads that seem to tether these teenagers to their faith... even in the face of the world's opposition.

While there are no guarantees in parenting, I've witnessed that the most spiritually grounded teenagers have parents who put a few basis principles to practice.

Read more inside...

A Miracle Testimony



My parents got a divorce when I was six, and both remarried by the time I was eight. I had a lot of resentment toward my father, which resulted in distant relationship with him. I spent most of my time pouring myself into friends, basketball and church youth

group. The absence of my father in my life lead to me having boyfriend after boyfriend, which came with constant heartache. In a very short period of time, my grandpa died, one of my friends died in a car accident and another friend committed suicide. In my clouded state of mind, I quit basketball. I started doing

drugs and began to hate my life. Suicide was in my near future. My mom sent me to the treatment program. I recommitted my life to Jesus and He healed me from my depression. I'm now making strides toward a bright future with a support group behind me each step!

-Ashton M.

Lead By Example



Hope For Teens
www.hope4teens.org
888-488-HOPE

*"My father didn't
tell me how to live,
he lived and let me
watch him do it"*
-Clarence Kelland



Children spend most of their younger years putting the actions and words of adults under a microscope. This means that parents need to be active role models during this extremely influential stage! Don't become angry when they point out your flaws! Take responsibility and demonstrate that you, too, are

"subject to needing change".

What a parent does in moderation the child will do in excess.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Gal. 6:9

Teens examine their parents' actions, and are repelled by any form of hypocrisy. But they are also highly

impressed when their parents' lives reflect strong Christian principles and will often emulate what they see. If you want your child to have strong Christian values, than you yourself need to exemplify this. Let your actions match your faith; your child will notice.

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" 1 Jn 3:18

Discuss Hard Topics

Teens are bombarded with a barrage of anti-Christian messages such as evolution, new age spiritualism, and promiscuity. It is therefore natural that they will have questions regarding these issues. Your best defense against these arrows is to talk about

them openly with your teenager. No matter how old your child is right now, start a pattern of open, honest communication so that when your child reaches the teen years, he or she will know they can trust you with their tough questions.

Don't worry about having all the answers; when you're stumped, show your child how to seek wisdom from the Bible and from fellow Christians. This alone can lead to a life of learning which will empower them through their years.

Encourage Christian Peer Fellowship

A teenager's peers are a powerful influence in his or her life. Therefore, it is important to encourage your child to pick a peer group that has the same Christian values as your family. Often we fool our-

selves by thinking that we are too smart and too strong of a Christian to be swayed by others beliefs and actions. Let us not make the same mistake as Samson and Solomon by allowing bad company

to turn our heart away from the Lord. By encouraging your children to maintain healthy, accountable, Christian relationships we are teaching them to find safety in a multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:14).

Create An Altar In Your Home



The whole is only as strong as its parts, and every member of the family has something to contribute to God's kingdom. It is important to instruct and encourage

one another by meeting together to studying God's Word. Create a central location in your home where your family can worship, pray and have devotionals. This should be a consistent and positive time that the family prioritizes and looks forward to.

Some of the most influential Christian instruction your child receives will come from you.

When this teaching is a regular part of his family life, it will stay with him and impact the decisions he makes.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"
Proverbs 22:6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"
Eph. 6:4

Give Your Child Back to God

Just as Abraham and Hannah did; so we need to do. There comes a point as adults where we must humble ourselves and realize that we cannot be the "Super Parent". We are limited in our ability to completely control, protect, and guide our children. There

comes a point where we must realize our limitations and trust God to do the rest. By giving our child back to Christ we are learning to recognize that with man, there are limitations; but with God, all things are possible (Phil 4:9)! Only Christ can change a heart. As

adults, we can guide and direct children but they each have to learn how to make their own choices, and to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. This journey may be a tough one to watch, but may be the ultimate reward of parenting!

Teach Character

Knowing precise character qualities teaches children the basis for praising the character of God and others. By teaching them universal standards recognized as being right we are teaching them how to demonstrate their

faith by their actions. *"By their fruits you shall know them."* Matt 7:20. We also put a sense of conviction into our children. By discipling and training our child in the ways of Christ we are teaching them how to be

successful in their personal life, marriage, family, finances, and vocation.



For more information about parenting resources go to www.CallBobby.com



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Treatment Services for Christian
Families with Troubled Loved Ones

Hope For Teens is a faith-based, non-profit organization for families in crisis. We offer help through an established network of ministries. Oftentimes those we help are defiant, unmotivated, truant, and involved in immoral lifestyles; including promiscuity, drug abuse, alcohol and outright rebellion.

The combined services and collaborative efforts of our network addresses the needs of the *whole person* by providing a *whole solution* through spiritual nurturing, character development, recreational activities, vocational training, addiction recovery, academic achievement, emotional health and social enrichment.

For more information contact an Enrollment Counselor at:

888-488-HOPE ext. 83



Join Us For Our Parenting Workshop

Please be our guest and join our International Parenting Conference Call. Call in around 7:15pm Arizona Time, as the class will begin at 7:30pm AZT. We look forward to seeing you there!

To Participate Call:
218-486-1300

Parenting Conference ID or Pin:
862310

For the sake of others, no late callers will be allowed on the line. Please call in by 7:30pm AZT.

Topics for February:

The 4 Styles of Parenting:

The Controlling Parent

The Permissive Parent

The Neglectful Parent

The Effective Parent

Upcoming February Events:

Courting vs. Dating Seminar
February 15, 2008
7:30p.m.

Communication Workshop
February 23, 2008
10am –3pm

For more information and registration go to:
www.NewEvent.org



“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers” -Malachi 4:6