

## Teen Class Intro

Teen years among the toughest. I believe these are some of life's most vulnerable times.

If we can just get them through HS with their faith intact, and sanity intact.....

Teens are trying figure out who they are, and we as parents must gently help them to see that above all else, they are God's children and putting God first will ultimately lead to everything they desire that is good!

We must grow in our humility. Let them know when we make mistakes.

Apologize - without out the follow up (which blames our child or spouse etc. for our failure)

If they don't see humility in us, they have little chance of being humble themselves.

Justin, Gretchen and Claire are a major part of our life's work.... We are trying our best to be expert builders

### 1. God's love / Mom & Dad's Love

- a. Psalm 143:8 Sir Alec Guinness said to have read this verse every morning
- b. Ephesians 3: 17b-19 Striving to grasp and teach our kids to grasp God's love
- c. Psalm 139:1-4,11-14 God's love is deep / We feel a deep connection with our kids  
No love (on earth) like a parent's love for their children!
- d. Ps 127: 3 – 5 Children are a blessing no matter what they are doing right now.  
Children teach us things from God that we couldn't learn any other way  
Children (teens) are a reward

Try to dwell on our teen's great qualities – Php 4:8 "Whatever is noble, right, pure...

Think about such things" when thinking about our kids and praying for them

**OUR TEENS NEED A TON OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM US**

Have fun with our kids (games, family traditions etc., home as a refuge for our teens)

Find connections (shared love for music), things our kids can teach us (phone features)

### 2. Guided by the Scriptures Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another...."

- a. When Considering our parenting, we must constantly be discussing with our spouse or spiritual counselors - What am I seeing in my teen?, what do the scriptures say about this, and how can I make opportunities to point them to the word of God as their primary character and life guide. **EACH CHILD IS DIFFERENT** – requires a diff. strategy
- b. Here are few scriptures that I think of when thinking about the life of my teen  
I'll read the scripture and ask the group to expound on how this relates to our teens

+ Luke 6:26 "Woe to you when all men speak well of you" Goal is not popularity

+ Mark 4:18 parable of the soils "desire for other things ..." chokes the word of God

+ 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Bad company corrupts good character" **Parents**, do not be misled...

+ Psalm 132: 3 -5 Daily help our teens “Find a place for the Lord...” Justin, bible before games

3. Gradually allowing our teens to stand on their own two feet

1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child... When I became a man I put childish ways behind”

Parents need to not treat teens like babies....Respect, Value privacy

We need to know what’s going on with our kids, but show respect...

The teen ‘attitude’ is not all bad. God is preparing you and your teen for a separation.

Don’t cling to your teens childhood and inhibit their emotional and spiritual maturation.

My talk with Gretchen as she went away to college.

In High School you needed to have friends at school and that was fine.

Always prioritizing relationships with Christians first.

College- you need to decide that your close friends are disciples and others you are trying to bring into God’s family.

I never like the term “church friends” & “School friends” They are not on equal footing!

Share about Claire and the School Prom 2 Cor.6: 14-18 Do you parents believe this verse!

Claire- you’re my daughter, but you’re also my sister in Christ. I want you to think maturely.

**MOMS ROLE with TEEN GIRLS, GUYS - Trinda to share DADS ROLE They need both!!!!**

4. Heaven is the Goal (Not Success, Not Popularity, Not even personal happiness)

Ecclesiastes 3: 9-11 God has put eternity into our Teens Hearts

We must focus on the big picture of life and eternity or we risk our kids

“gaining the world and forfeiting their soul...” Luke 9:25

Being a Christian is hard (narrow road, picking up our cross, denying ourselves)

If we are constantly trying to make the road easier for our kids – We are not doing the job right!

Help them learn to persevere in relationships (love always perseveres)

We all feel slighted by one another, but can’t allow that to cause us or our kids to give up on Relationships...

NEVER STOP INITIATING with kids from church. They may not look like it now, but they will help your kids get to heaven. Share Gretchen and Justin now. Friends since pre-school now in each other’s weddings.....

PRAYER

Discussion Questions for small discussion groups (depending on class size)

1. What are some of your teens best qualities? Let’s brag on our kids for a bit

2. How can we help our kids wrestle with the desire for acceptance, and help them see the bigger need is to grow in Seeking First God’s Kingdom?

3. What are some creative ways we can help our kids with learning the bible on a consistent basis
4. Can we share some victories we have seen with our teens, and what helped you achieve the victory (obviously God's hand is working, but what might have been your role)