

Amazing Opportunities that We Can Easily Miss

Our Newest Initiative in the InnerChange Student Ministries...

1. Primary Opportunity: To be My Family's "Youth Pastor."

Misconception: "I brought them this far and now it's time to hand them off to the Youth Pastor!"

- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)
- Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)
- I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, Matthew 12:36 (ESV)
- "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. Matthew 18:23 (ESV)
- So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:12 (ESV)

Article about Parental Influence: *Is Lady Gaga a 21st Century Hero?*

Tool: Men's Fraternity this September

2. To Shepherd My Teenager's Heart

Misconception: "Haven't we covered this before? Why do I have to teach you this again?"

Tool: *Age of Opportunity*, by Paul David Tripp

Tool: Honest Talks Journal

- Middle School – Have some "Honest Talks with God" with them.
- High School – Challenge and coach them on their Honest Talks with God.
- Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; Ecclesiastes 12:1 (ESV)
- How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. Psalm 119:9 (ESV)

3. To Share the Gospel with my Teenager.

Misconception: “I know that my teenager believes what’s right despite what their behavior looks like.”

- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16 (ESV)
- For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

Misconception: “I spent time ‘sewing my wild oats’ and I turned out alright. I’m sure my kid will turn out fine.”

Statistics: - www.barna.org/teens-next-gen-articles/147

Tool: Responsibility / Privilege Connection Chart

4. To Help my teenager grow into a Young Adult

Misconception: “The teenage years are just naturally a time of rebellion. If I can get my kid through them without flunking-out, getting addicted to drugs, or having a baby, I should be happy with that.”

- So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)
- Titus 2:1-6 (ESV)
¹ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women....to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women.... Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Tool: “Rites of Passage” – Nab-Da-Newbies

Spiritual Milestones, by Jim and Janet Weidmann, J. Otis, and Gail Ledbetter

- Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Ecclesiastes 11:9 (ESV)

Articles:

- *The Invention of Adolescence*, by Otto Scott
- *The Myth Called Adolescence*, By Rick Holland (it’s impact on youth ministry)