

**"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." Psalm 127:4**  
**Session 12: Shepherding Teens**

- I. Common characteristics of teenagers**
  - A. Insecurity
  - B. Vulnerability
  - C. Instability
  - D. Emotional instability
  - E. Apprehension
  - F. Tendency to rebel
  
- II. Common pitfalls for parents**
  - A. Cops and robbers—parents always checking up on children
  - B. Parents Disengage—give up on trying to influence their teenagers
  - C. Authoritarianism versus influence
  - D. Reckless words—derogatory, nasty words do great damage
  - E. Majoring on the minors—focusing on matters of style and taste
  
- III. Goals with our teenagers**
  - A. Internalization of the gospel
  - B. Passing on the baton of faith
  - C. Shepherding their interaction with the truth of God's word
    - 1. Parents need to bring God's word to their kids all the time
    - 2. Apply God's truth to think through issues of culture
    - 3. Apply scripture to relationship struggles
  - D. Shepherding teenagers through the inevitable periods of doubt
    - 1. Teenagers *will* come to the point of wrestling with issues of faith
    - 2. Parents need to be ready for these periods
  - E. Develop a relationship that leads to mutuality as adults under God
  
- IV. Three foundational things for interacting with teenagers**
  - A. The fear of the Lord
    - 1. Proverbs 1:7—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
    - 2. This is the first step in the path of wisdom
    - 3. The fear of God has been de-emphasized in modern evangelical culture
  - B. Proverbs 1:9-10—**remember your parents' words.**
  - C. Disassociation from the wicked
    - 1. Equip your teenagers to get out of places of danger
    - 2. Wicked people present evil as something attractive, and offer acceptance
  
- V. Communication**
  - A. Communication with your teenagers is dictated by your parenting paradigm
    - 1. If your paradigm is *control*, you will use harsh words
    - 2. If the paradigm is *nurture*, your language will be different

- B. Biblical communication has spiritual foundations that reflect a life of faith and confidence in God
  - 1. Proverbs 15:33—The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom
  - 2. Proverbs 9:10—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
  - 3. Proverbs 17:27—Wise people speak with restraint
    - i. Shouting trivializes your words
    - ii. Avoid wordiness (see Ecclesiastes 6:11; Proverbs 17:28)
    - iii. Too many words make your words meaningless
    - iv. If you say too many words, you will say things that are unguarded
    - v. Think first, speak second (see Proverbs 15:28, 29:20)
- C. Use pleasant words (Proverbs 16:20-24—Pleasant words promote instruction)
- D. **Your goal is to understand your child**
  - 1. The finest art of communication is not the ability to express your thoughts; it is the ability to understand your kids (Session 7)
  - 2. Heed the warning of Proverbs 18:2—"The fool does not delight in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions"
- E. Communication is what enables you to have a relationship with your teenagers that makes you an influence in their lives

**Take Home Principles:**

- 1. **During the teenage years, we strive to exert decreasing authority and increasing influence on our children. We become less of a coach and more of a cheerleader.**
- 2. **Parenting is a tool God uses to sanctify us. Our goal is to submit to God as He trains us, so we will be better prepared to shepherd our children.**

**Homework:** Read chapters 18 & 19 in "Shepherding a Child's Heart". Try to have a date night to discuss the following questions:

- 1. Which of the "parenting pitfalls" Tripp discussed are most significant for us to try to avoid as parents?
- 2. Tripp's "Goals with out teenagers" can also be reasonable "Goals for parenting". How are we doing? What changes should we consider?
- 3. After 12 weeks of parenting videos, what action points should we focus on?
- 4. Can we agree to reassess our progress in 6 months?

**Additional Resources:** [familylifetoday.com](http://familylifetoday.com)

"Passport2Identity"

"Passport2Purity"