

Leadership in the Home

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description: Part 4

This course continues to explore the importance of leadership in the home. In our lesson today, we focus on the role of parents raising their children at the various ages of their life. As children grow and mature, so does parenting them. The changes that occur in a child's life must be met with the ability to also change the approach to parenting.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the responsibilities of parents raising their children during the preteen years.
- B. Studied the final, and perhaps most challenging, period in a child's life and how the parent should lead during this period.

Outline of the class:

- A. Spend the first few minutes of class reviewing a couple highlights from the two major areas of child development described last week.
- B. Ensure that the class remains divided into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to take the next 5-10 minutes and discuss in their groups the greatest challenge in working with teenagers during this adolescent period of life and how parents might deal with this challenge.
- C. After they complete this task, ask each group to share the area they believe to be most challenging in parenting through adolescence and how they would address that challenge. This time of sharing is extremely important for the development of this lesson.
- D. The material that follows for today's class describes the final stage in child development. Again, it is not an exhaustive list of principles related to this stage, but it provides a strong foundation.
 - 1. Thirteen to eighteen years old: adolescence
 - a. It has never been more important, or more difficult, to keep the paths of communication open.
 - b. Parents need more than ever both wisdom and patience.
 - c. It is very important to help the youth shape their own personal convictions. Our example for them is more important than ever in this formation.
 - d. We must provide opportunities for spiritual activities with other young Christians, because of the influence and pressure felt from peers increases even more now.

- e. We must lead the child toward full independence.
 - f. Do not make the mistake of abandoning discipline during this stage in the child's development (which is not yet an adult).
 - i. They must reach agreement on the rules of acceptable behavior at home.
 - ii. They must reach agreement on the consequences of disobedience to these regulations.
 - g. Children need specific instructions regarding Christian behavior with the opposite sex.
 - h. Expressions of affection remain paramount, although many parents abandon them when the children reach adolescence.
 - i. Do not forget that they are no longer babies and they do not want parents to treat them as such.
2. Ask each group to spend a few minutes to determine what one area they might implement in leading a child through adolescence that benefits both the parent and child.
 3. After they finish the discussion, ask them to share their suggestions and make a list on the whiteboard of their responses.

Conclusion:

- A. Few stages in the life of a child are more challenging than adolescence. During this time, it is critical that parents understand the difficulties experienced in the life of the child and how to come alongside them in an effort to help them transition from this stage into adulthood.
- B. As with all stages, parents play a significant role during this time to help in the child's development.
- C. Next week's lesson will discuss suggestions for discipline and several other areas needed throughout each period of a child's life.