

# Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 33 OF 52

## WISDOM FOR YOUTH

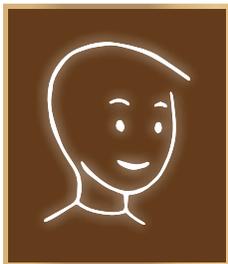
LESSON AIM: To consider some wisdom for youth from the Bible.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **ECCLESIASTES 12:1** It is good to remember \_\_\_\_\_ when you are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **2 CHRONICLES 34:1-3** How old was Josiah when he began to seek the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **PROVERBS 20:29** The teenage years are a time when young men are admired for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **2 TIMOTHY 2:22** Paul told Timothy, his follower, to turn away from \_\_\_\_\_ and to go after \_\_\_\_\_.
5. **PSALM 119:9** It is very important for teens to live by God's \_\_\_\_\_ so that their lives will stay clean and pure.

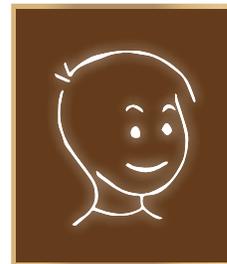
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



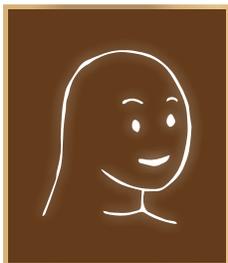
### By Yourself

Talk to older parents who have successfully brought their children through the teenage years as strong Christians. Learn how they did it.



### With Your Children

Take each teenage son or daughter out for a meal or a time alone. Talk together about anything that may be on his mind.



### With Your Wife

Talk together about how you both felt and acted as teens. This may help you to understand your own children better.

Fathers sometimes fear the time when their children will be teenagers. Words like “teenage rebellion” and “losing your teens” sound scary. The teen years look like a time of conflict. While they can be a difficult time, there is much that can be done to make it easier.

1. It makes a difference how you look at teenagers.

## A TEENAGER IS

- an adult being born
- a young person in a no-man’s-land between childhood and adulthood
- changing from dependence on parents to independence as an adult
- full of energy and enthusiasm which needs guidance from parents
- a diamond in the process of being cut to show its full beauty

2. It also helps if you can remember the pressures that young people face.

## TEEN PRESSURES

- pressure to be like their own age group - this is strongest in teenage years
- boy-girl relationships - they are developing sexually and becoming interested in the opposite sex.
- they are starting to think seriously about a career or job
- they are wanting to choose their own values and beliefs
- freedom to make their own decisions

3. Here are some things that will help you both get through these difficult years:

- Start young - Build close, warm family relationships before the child becomes a teenager. Explain the changes that will happen in puberty before they happen. Help him feel good about himself as a child.
- Keep talking - Don’t stop when the going gets rough.
- Keep listening - Teens are starting to think for themselves. Expect to learn something from them.
- Stand for what you believe - Children will test you, but they feel more secure if they have something solid to “kick against”. Be firm but not stubborn.
- Give love and acceptance freely, not expecting children to return it - Let them know that you will love them as children no matter what happens. Try to do as God would do with your teenager. Remember that children who are loved want to do as their fathers do (Ephesians 5:1-2).

**LET NO ONE SHOW LITTLE RESPECT FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG.  
SHOW OTHER CHRISTIANS HOW TO LIVE BY YOUR LIFE... (1 TIMOTHY 4:12)**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

Randy and Lisa had a fourteen-year-old daughter named Terry. One night after they had gone to bed, they heard Terry sobbing in her room. Randy and Lisa went to her bedside and asked what was wrong.

“You always taught me there was a God in heaven, but how do I really know for sure?” Terry said.

Randy did not get upset. He patiently told Terry what the Bible says about God. He reminded her of the many answers to prayer and the ways they had seen God work in other people’s lives. They also talked about some of the other doubts Terry had. Then they prayed together.

Terry became confident that she could ask her parents about anything.



**A teenager is an adult being born.**

### Teen Pressures:

- peer pressure
- sexual desires
- the future
- personal faith
- freedom
- decisions

### Teens need a strong relationship with father:

- warm family ties
- good self-image
- love and acceptance
- convictions
- listening and talking