

Women Counseling Women:
Biblical Answers to Life's Difficult Problems

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Week 8

“Training Teens in the True Faith”

Help youth to see the eternal destination of this life. Bring into focus the value of eternity over this temporary life. God's redeemed are destined to God's kingdom, and there is no better end of the road. (Col 3:1-4)

Christ provides a new life and identity. Heaven is the glorious destination. Christ did not come in order to make life on this earth a heavenly experience. This life is not about self-esteem. It is about esteeming and finding joy in worshiping God. (Jer 17:5)

There is a difference between devotion to principles and devotion to a person. Jesus never proclaimed a cause. He proclaimed a personal devotion to Himself. (Psalm 42:1-2)

Lovingly challenge youth to an honest evaluation of their hearts to determine if there is evidence of being in Christ. When directed with love and passion, youth respond well to a challenge. There is no higher goal to put before their lives than grasping kingdom citizenship. There is nothing more fulfilling than to join in kingdom living. The principles in the Sermon on the Mount (Matth 5) are the gospel road map for young souls who require and seek direction and hope.

Blessed are those who mourn over sin and hunger and thirst after righteousness. Blessed are the meek, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. (These evidences flow from a changed heart.)

The journey is not easy. It is costly. But it is well worthwhile! (Matth 6:19-21)

Christlike behavior and joy encourages uncommitted teens to join you in this journey. Begging, arguing, preaching at, isolating, or punishing is not effective when it comes to reaching their hearts. God uses merciful compassion to draw us. His love is not harsh or cruel; it is gentle and patient.

Unconditional love, a life committed to biblical truth, and esteeming God attracts teens to the right path.

Pray for them

Love them

Live with joy before them

Speak truth to them

Represent the gospel through your attitudes and responses

Encourage them with humility

Teach them

Help them

Share hope with them

Recommended Resources

Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

What the Bible Says about Parenting by John MacArthur

When Good Kids Make Bad Choices by Fitzpatrick and Newheiser

The Sermon on the Mount by Daniel Doriani

“Raising Children Who Are Challenged”

Our children are fearfully and wonderfully made, not just the ones without disabilities. (Ps 139:13-16)

God had a plan and a purpose when He created your child the way He did, and it was a plan to bring benefit, not harm, into your life. (Jer 29:11)

God has given each of our children a distinctive way to reflect His character. (Gen 1:27) Our calling as parents is to try to understand what God is doing in their lives and be a part of that. If you can get a vision for what God may be doing in your child’s life, and start asking Him to fulfill it, who knows what might happen?

Our goal should not be to make our kids more like other children. We should help them grow into the strengths God intended to produce in them when He designed their bodies and planned their life stories.

We should aim to reach their hearts. We can teach them to respond in love for the Lord, who has given so much to them. (Phil 2:1-11)

When you know you are completely incapable of doing what you need to, pray fervently for His grace. God’s power is made perfect in weakness. (II Cor 12:9)

God sees limitations differently than we do. He uses challenges in life to conform us to the image of His Son. He will cause us to grow in faith as we come to Him with our own weakness and brokenness and ask for grace. (I Cor 1:27)