

## PARENTS AND TEENS "UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER"

By Flavious Adkins



This time period in history seems to be a very difficult one for young people, especially those in their teen years. These are the ones that are too old to be called children, but for the most part still lacking the experience to be fully adult. They are not lacking knowledge because certainly many if not most young people have much more knowledge than we did at their age, but they have not yet acquired wisdom. Speaking of wisdom, wise children will want to please their parents (Prov. 10:1).

### TEENS:



Just because you want to please your parents doesn't mean that you always do. In fact it can be very hard to even know what it is that pleases them. Any teenager can tell you that parents are really tough to figure out. One minute they want you to act like an adult but when you do something you consider as adult, such as staying out until 2:00 AM driving around with your friends, they get upset and treat you like children.

The following tips may help you to understand your parents and develop a better relationship with them.

**1. Don't shy away from speaking their language.** It may sound a little strange to you at first but don't give up. *When you first try this, maybe you should make sure they are sitting down or are braced against something solid because there is nothing that hinders a good conversation like seeing your parents passed out and lying on the kitchen floor.* Now you are ready to try some strange sounding words on them like, "Let me help with the dishes" or "I'll take out the garbage." If you are talking to your mother, you may even ask her if she would help arrange your closet so your clothes would be easier to find and keep neat. Don't over do it at first as parents are rather fragile.

**2. Music is another subject to think about when trying to understand parents.** Surely the most commonly heard phrase from parents to their children who are listening to music is, "Turn the volume down." Of course, they are worried about your hearing as well as theirs because some of the rock concerts can have noise levels even louder than that of a jet plane taking off. *They don't understand that you don't have the volume up to hear but so that it will "cause your gizzard to vibrate".* Of course, you may regret this later when you have to wear a hearing aid to hear anything at all. But what are your parents listening to? Maybe it would be a good idea to try to understand their music. If it's the same music they listened to when they were young, it may not be all that good either but give it a try. Remember that good music is like good art - it never goes out of style. Do you think the music you like now will be around in 10 or 20 years? Ask your folks if any of the songs they used to like are still being played anywhere. However, if it is really good, it is always good. The music of people like Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Handel and Strauss have been popular for two, three, or four hundred years and people still look forward to hearing them again. If you play them over and over, you may even begin to appreciate what is good about them.

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## Personal Note

*Hello Everyone,*

*We hope this issue finds all of you fine and in good health. We have just come through the Spring Holy Day Season and pray that you had a blessed, joyous and inspiring time during these days. Pentecost will be here shortly, and then before we know it, the Fall Holy Days will be upon us. Seems like the days, weeks and months just fly by. Does anyone else feel that way, or is it just me?*

*As you look through this issue, you will see much space is devoted to parents, teens and their relationships. We have neglected to address the teens in our past issues, and we wanted to let the teens know that they are important and a very vital part of the church. Parents, please pass along this issue to your teens and we hope they will like and learn some things from this TODAY. We would like some feedback from teens, and plan on developing another issue in the near future. Teens, please let us know what kind of articles, issues and activities you would like us to address, and also if you would like to submit material for publication, please send it to the address below. We appreciate your input!*

*Our lead article this issue was written by a new writer of TODAY, Flavious Adkins. This article was originally given as a sermonette during a local church service. I found it to be humorous, tongue-in-cheek and an excellent explanation of how parents and teenagers should deal with each other. We don't always agree in how to handle these situations, but try to remember all of us are human and need to be heard every once in awhile.*

*Please read the wonderful story about Iron Eyes Cody, "Don't Tell Lies". His message is "Don't pick up what can't be laid down without being hurt". We hope this message comes through loud and clear to everyone. The activity sheets on page 5 through 8 are from "Talk Sheets". (See Resource Page for more details.)*

*Keep those emails and letters coming. We love to hear from you.*

*Shelby Faith*

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## From Our Readers



*Dear Shelby Faith,*

*I've been getting literature from CGOM for quite sometime...I truly enjoy all of it. I particularly enjoyed "The Willing Heart". It made me want to cry – it really touched my heart....I have a 12 year old granddaughter and I hope to get her to do some of your work sheets. Thank you and God bless you for your "TODAY brochure".*

*In Jesus Name, D.J.C., Kansas*

*Hello Sister In Christ,*

*I want to thank you for the publication you send me...and thank you for publishing TODAY Magazine...I would like to say the time and effort you put into the magazine has helped me greatly...It brings peace and comfort in my life...I will be waiting for your next copy of TODAY News.*

*Sincerely Your brother in Christ,  
SM, Arizona*

*(Personal Note to SM:) Regarding your prayer request, we have taken your requests to our Heavenly Father, and hope that you have an answer by now.*

*In response to an article "Establishing The Children" in our last issue, we received the following email copied here in part:*

*Dear Mr. Bill Faith*

*...The third paragraph is wrong because you say the film "will" be screened in secondary schools...You would be surprised the power that the head teachers have over the content of anything that comes into the schools these days. This film would have to be accepted by the local educational authority first and then offered to the schools. It would then have to be put before the board of governors at each school and then finally the head teacher would make a decision whether it was used...The standards in UK schools are very high and getting higher these days.*

*(Personal Note from the Editor:) We appreciate your comments and are glad to hear that the UK schools have high standards and take their responsibilities seriously. Mr. Faith was quoting an article describing this film, from Victoria Combe, a religion correspondent for Daily Telegraph, dated 9/4/2001, and the information was on their Internet web site. ([news.telegraph.co.uk](http://news.telegraph.co.uk))*

**3. Be patient with their weaknesses.** You might be surprised to find that they have weaknesses, but it's true. If you know your Mom is on a diet and you catch her sneaking a candy bar, don't jump all over her. Set a good example that may help her will power next time.

**4. Encourage them to talk about their problems.** Things that bother you, like not being able to impress the good looking kid in your class, does not seem to effect them all that much. However, things like seeing that you have enough to eat, clothes to wear, the every day job of earning a living, the car payments and paying off the mortgage seem to be important to them. *If they had the same outlook as you about these things, you may find yourself living in a cardboard box under a bridge somewhere.* In the process of finding these things out, you may find that you may even understand your own problems better.

**5. Try to be tolerant of their appearances.** When your father gets a haircut or your mother gets a new dress, *don't try to hide them from your friends.* Remember it's important to them to look like "their peers." You, above all, should know how important this is. However, if you keep in mind this thing about peer pressure, you should be able to weigh a thing to understand if it is right or wrong. This is part of being adult. Just because everyone is doing it, is perhaps the dumbest reason in the world to do anything.

**6. Use sound judgment.** Perhaps you have had one of your parents do something you think is wrong. Instead of assuming the worst, talk to them about it. Perhaps you have made a wrong judgment of their actions and again maybe they have done it unknowingly. *It is best in this circumstance not to condemn them as they can be very touchy about this.* Let them know that it is their behavior that you dislike and not them. After all, we all make mistakes of one kind or another and we would hate to be disliked because of our errors.

**7. Another way to understand your parents is to pray for them.** They may seem confident on the outside but feel weak and vulnerable on the inside. There are many concerns in the world we live in today. There is the uncertainty in the economic areas as well as the increasing instability of the governments of the world and on top of that the fear of trying to set a good example for you among all this. Yes, they need your prayers because they know that it is only God who can get them through those difficult years.

There you have seven ways to improve your understanding of your parents. But there is another side of the coin isn't there? How many of you young people feel your parents understand you? Maybe we could turn the seven points around and the parents could use them to understand you.

### PARENTS:

The following tips may help you

understand your children and develop a better relationship with them.



**1. Speak their language.** Could it be that the words "please" and "thank you" mean the same in any language? How about "Do you need help with your algebra" or "I'll help wash your car." *(Be careful parents if you haven't used these words in a long time, to have them sitting down when you do. Teenagers fainting all over the floor can be an unpleasant sight).*

**2. Listen to their music.** Some of the music is quite good if played at a volume that doesn't cause hearing damage. However, if when listened to, you find it offensive you might explain why you find it objectionable. This may be a good time to check your own taste in music. Maybe you could buy tickets to the symphony and take the family.

**3. Be patient with their weaknesses.** Yelling at them is not as effective as a good example.

**4. Encourage them to talk about their problems.** You may not have solutions but you can sympathize with them and remind them that when you were their age, you had problems too. Somehow you lived through them and so will they. Now would be a good time to remind them of how God has promised to help them if they stay faithful to Him.

**5. Be tolerant of their appearance and how looking like everyone else seems important at this time in their life.** (I don't know if this would be a good time to tell them that ugly is not cool no matter who does it). It is better to look the best you can while you are young because there comes a time when the hair turns gray and the wrinkles come and there is nothing you can do about it. *Just don't do the things that speed it up like smoking and partying all night for days on end.*

**6. Use sound judgment.** Remind them that it is their behavior you dislike and not them. *Be careful here, parents, teenagers are very touchy about this.*

**7. Pray for your teens.** They need God perhaps more than any other generation up to this time.

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**So you see young people and parents, we are not so far apart as you would have assumed.** God knew all this from the start and had to remind us when He gave the Ten Commandments. Children honor your parents and Fathers don't provoke your children (Eph 6:1). Could this be what Jesus was talking about in Matt. 7:12 when He said, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them"?

For example, teenagers when you answer your parents with a smart mouth is this really how you would like them to talk to you? Parents when you yell at your children, is this the kind of behavior you expect when you have made an error of some kind?



**Yes it wouldn't hurt a bit if we all showed respect, kindness and love for each other whether we're parents or teens.**

## A PARENTS REMINDER

With each day, more and more,  
Let me be a better parent than before.

Let me listen with care and not turn away,  
Let me speak with love, and not judge, but praise.

Let me know when to bend, And when to stand firm,  
When to reach out or let my child learn.

Let me gently nurture my child's pride,  
And help to push wrong fears aside.

Let me never forget, not even for a little while,  
That no one is perfect, Neither parent, nor child.

Let me cherish the moments we spend alone,  
For much too soon my child will be grown.

And through all these things my child can be sure,  
That my love as a parent will always endure.

*(Thanks to Pam Chambers for submitting this.)*

## "WITH LOVE, TEENAGERS FROM YOUR PARENTS"

Someday when our children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, we will tell them:

We loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

We loved you enough to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.

We loved you enough to make you take a candy bar back to the drugstore (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk, "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."

We loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken your mother 15 minutes.

We loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment and tears in our eyes. Children must learn that their parents are not perfect.

We loved you enough to let you assume that responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke our heart.

But most of all, we loved you enough to say NO, when we knew you would hate us for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. We're glad we won them because, in the end you won something too.

(We want to tell you now how proud of you we are because you have grown up to be such a nice, loving and responsible young person. We know you will be a good parent yourself when that time in the future comes.)

*(Also submitted by Pam Chambers, with the last paragraph being added by the TODAY Editor.)*



# THE BOOK



**1**

To me the Bible is: (check one)

- Interesting and exciting; my favorite book.
- Interesting most of the time.
- Sometimes interesting, but sometimes boring.
- Most of the time boring and hard to understand.
- Totally boring and irrelevant; I never read it.

**2**

What is your favorite story from the Bible?

---

**3**

Cross out the sentences below that are not found in the Bible.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. God helps those who help themselves.                       | e. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.                   |
| b. The Lord works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. | f. Do not judge others or you will be judged yourself. |
| c. I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength. | g. All men are created equal.                          |
| d. All things work together for good, to those who love God.  |  |

**4**

Complete this sentence:

"The Bible differs from other books because \_\_\_\_\_"

**5**

What do you think? **A=AGREE D=DISAGREE**

- |  |                                   |                                   |   |                                   |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. The Bible is a book of rules.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> | g. Church tradition is as important as the Bible.             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> |
| b. Science has not proved the Bible is out of date.  | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | h. The Bible has answers to everyone's problems.              | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| c. The Bible contains contradictions.                | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | i. The main theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ and salvation. | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| d. The Old Testament doesn't apply to today's world. | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | j. The Bible proves there is a God.                           | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| e. The Bible is a book of mythology.                 | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | k. The Bible should always be interpreted literally.          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| f. Any translation of the Bible is acceptable.       | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          | l. The Bible is the only book you need to read.               | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |

**6**

After each statement, rate yourself from 1 to 10 on the scale by placing an X below the number best describing your position.

- I search the scriptures to find guidance for my life. (Psalm 119: 9-16)
- I read the Bible daily. (Psalm 1: 1-3)
- I realize the Holy Spirit will help me understand the Bible. (John 14:26)
- I see that I can grow as a Christian by studying the Bible. (1 Peter 2:1-9)
- I try to live what the Bible says. (James 1: 21-24)

THAT'S ME					THAT'S NOT ME				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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# THE BOOK

## Topic: The Bible

### Purpose of this Session:

The young people of today regard the Bible differently from earlier generations. Most are not convinced that the Bible is God's word and should have authority over their lives. This TalkSheet offers the opportunity to discuss the Bible, how it is thought of today and how Christians should regard its message.

### To Introduce the Session:

Write the following list on the blackboard and ask the students to name which ones are included in the Bible and which are not, without looking at their Bible's table of contents.

Hezekiah	III Timothy	Judas	Philippians
Matthew	Deuteronomy	Romans	Uzziah
Obadiah	Acts	Nahum	Numbers
Bartholomew	II Generations	Laminations	Joel

### The Discussion:

**Item #1:** Give the students the opportunity to share their true feelings about the Bible without making any value judgments yourself. It is normal for young people to think the Bible is boring, but try not to make them feel guilty about it. Help them find ways to perceive it as "un-boring".

**Item #2:** Ask the students to share their favorite Bible stories and to tell why they have become special favorites.

**Item #3:** Statements a, b, e and g are not in the Bible. Statement c is in Philippians 4:13, d is in Romans 8:28 and f is in Matthew 7:1.

**Item #4:** Ask for opinions on this. The main idea is to promote the understanding that the Bible is unique because it is God's word. It is not a human book, although God used humans to write and publish it. For more information, refer to a book on the Bible as divine revelation. Two pertinent scriptures are: 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.

**Item #5:** Ask for a vote on each of the statements, corresponding to the way they answered on the TalkSheet. If there is total agreement on one, go to the next. If there is a difference of opinion, encourage a debate on their ideas. You may wish to study these ahead of time in order to make well-founded comments of your own.

**Item #6:** Ask the students to evaluate their lives, according to these scriptures. Choose one or two to discuss further. Encourage the habit of consistent Bible study, pointing out the importance of God's word in guiding their daily lives.

### To Close the Session:

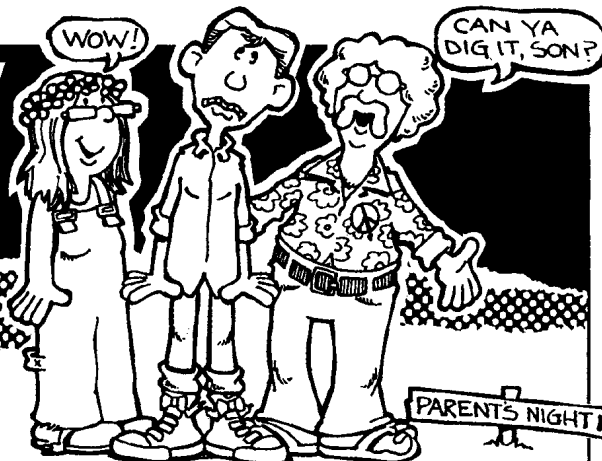
Emphasize that Christians believe in a God who reveals Himself to us in ways we can understand. He doesn't remain a mysterious force somewhere that can't be comprehended. The Bible is like a love letter from God to us. If we profess to believe in God, then we must also believe what He has to say to us is very important.

The NIV Student Bible (Zondervan) contains several Bible-reading plans for teenagers. Some are for a month, others are for longer periods of time, up to three years. By following one of these plans a few minutes each day, it is possible to read through the Bible or its major sections. You might wish to provide copies of this plan for your students, so they can begin a disciplined Bible-reading time of their own.

### Outside Activities:

1. Using one of their favorite Bible stories, have the students create a banner or a collage for the bulletin board.
2. Have the group create their own Bible trivia game and play it at the next youth meeting or retreat.

# PARENTS ARE PEOPLE, TOO



1

List three good and three not-so-good things about your parents:

**Good:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Not So Good:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2

Place an **X** on the line scale below indicating in which direction you are moving in your relationship with your parents.



3

Put yourself in your parents' shoes. If you were they:

**What would you do differently?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What would you do the same way?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4

Read each of the following problems. Next to each one, write the number that best corresponds to your answer.

- (1) I understand and accept the situation.      (2) I would like to try to change this situation.
- (3) I need to ask someone for help with this situation.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| _____ I can't talk with my parents about my personal problems. | _____ My parents don't allow me to do the things my friends do. | _____ My parents don't give me as much money as I want. |
| _____ My parents fight with each other.                        | _____ My parents won't listen to my opinions.                   | _____ My parents are always nagging me.                 |
| _____ My parents don't trust me.                               | _____ My parents treat me as if I were a child.                 | _____ My parents expect too much of me.                 |
| _____ My parents don't like my friends.                        | _____ My parents control too much of my life.                   | _____ My parents don't understand me.                   |

5

Study one of the following passages of scripture and be prepared to discuss it.

**Proverbs 1:8-9**

**Psalms 78:5**

**Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

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## PARENTS ARE PEOPLE, TOO

### Topic: Parent-teen Relationships

#### Purpose of this Session:

As children become adolescents, they begin to establish an identity of their own. They begin to separate themselves from their parents and to become independent. This always causes a certain amount of difficulty in the home. To the parents, the teenager seems rebellious and distant. To the teenager, the parents seem hopelessly old-fashioned and overly strict. This TalkSheet is to help you discuss parent-teen relationships with your students in a constructive and positive manner.

#### To Introduce the Topic:

Have the group role-play a few situations that involve parents and teenagers. For example, ask one to play the role of the parent and another the part of the teenager who wants to "go out" with some friends for the evening. The problem is that the teenager is "on restriction" for getting home fifteen minutes late the previous weekend. The teenager's "role" is to convince the "parent" he/she should be allowed to go. The "parent" should respond the way they think most parents would.

#### The Discussion:

**Item #1:** Make a master list of the bad and good characteristics of parents and display it. If your students are typical, they will find it easier to name faults than good qualities. Help them arrive at a more balanced viewpoint. You might turn this around and ask for good and bad things about themselves, from the parents' standpoint. Young people are learning their parents aren't perfect, but they need to realize they have their own imperfections as well.

**Item #2:** Ask for volunteers to talk about the status of their relationship with their parents. Once they have shared, ask them to think of ways they can improve their relationships with their parents.

**Item #3:** This exercise encourages young people to see things from their parents point of view. Have volunteers share their responses to the two questions - what they would do the same way and what they would do differently. Then ask them to give their reasons.

**Item #4:** Talk about each of these problem areas and watch for the ones where the most frequent response is "Try to change". With these, stop and ask the students how best the change could be brought about. For instance, how would they change a situation in which their parents don't trust them? What are some steps they can take to establish trust?

Some students will indicate they need help with problems. Let them know who is available and make certain they get the help they need from yourself, your pastor, other church parents or concerned adults, or a qualified counselor. Don't assume those with problems are getting help. They probably are not. You can perform a great ministry in their lives by referring them to responsible help.

**Item #5:** Ask the students to read these passages and to discuss them one at a time. Discuss ways these scriptures can be put into practice in parent-teen relationships.

#### To Close the Session:

Your youth group needs to be encouraged to hang in there with their parents. Keep your closing comments upbeat and positive. Here are a few points you can make:

Parents want the best for their children. They have invested a lot in their children's lives and care a great deal about them. Parents may not be perfect, but they are the only ones they have. God gave our parents to us and we need to be thankful for them.

They need to communicate with their parents and spend time with them. They should not always try to avoid them. They need to make an effort to find ways of opening up communication at home.

They need to attempt to see things from their parents' point of view. Parents are under a lot of pressure, just as the students are. There may be ways they can help take some of the pressure off the parents, which will only make life better for them.

Remember that God has commanded us to honor and obey our parents, even when they seem to be wrong (Exodus 20:12). This is one of the Ten Commandments and is irrevocable. But it also comes with a promise. We won't regret "hanging in there" with our parents through the teen years. It's always amazing when you become an adult yourself, how smart and wise our parents suddenly become.

It would be appropriate to close with a prayer for everyone's parents.

#### Outside Activities:

1. Have your students write a letter to their parents. They should include several words of appreciation and an "I love you". Some have difficulty telling their parents they love them. A letter can make this easier.
2. Schedule another meeting or a weekend retreat, including the students' parents. Role play a situation together, similar to the one described earlier, only have the parents play the parts of the teenagers and the teens the parents. Play games together, have discussions together and encourage parents and teens to discuss some of the issues raised in this TalkSheet.



# TIPS FOR TEACHING TEEN CLASSES

By Shelby Faith



If you have teens in your church group, please don't neglect these youth of the church. They need to feel that they are part of the church too, and just as special as the younger children of the congregation. If you feel like you don't know what to teach teens, or have a dread of this age group, don't despair. This article will hopefully give you some ideas on what to teach, techniques, resources, materials and

how to build a successful teen Sabbath School class. Start with an overall objective of helping teens to build a basic foundation of knowledge of the Holy Bible, God's Laws and Holy Days, and to help them be a Christian teen in our world today.

## DEVELOPING LESSON THEMES:

- Teens first need to know how to use the Bible, concordance, handbooks, dictionary and other references. (Also they need to know there are many translations of the Bible; some are good and others are not.)
- Teach and develop lessons around the Sabbath, Holy Days, Ten Commandments, and other church beliefs. Expound about God, the Father, Christ the Son, Their love for us, and Their plans for our youth.
- Don't forget the Creation Story and other great stories in the Old and New Testament, especially those stories of children of courage and obedience. (David, Isaac, Joseph, Miriam, The Three in the Fiery Furnace, etc.)
- Teach that the Bible is an instruction book from our Maker; who made us, what we are made of, how we are to live, how we are to treat our bodies, and what the future holds for all of us, including our teens. Teach that the Bible is a history book, past, present and future.
- Develop lessons about teen problems - peer pressure, drugs, drinking, smoking, sex, depression and fear, and how to overcome the problems teens face today.
- Teach teens about sin, forgiveness, faith, love, prayer and how to pray, respect for God, parents and each other, and proper fun and enjoyment.
- Do a name study. Give a student a name and have them look

it up in the Bible and/or handbook, find the meaning of the name, and tell the story of that person. (If a student has a biblical name, have them look up their own name - they will enjoy this.)

## TECHNIQUES:

- Make teens aware of the world around them. Have them watch TV news, read papers and magazines on world and local events. (You can be sure teens are watching and wondering what's going on since the Sept. 11 tragedy, and they also are concerned about what goes on in the nation's schools and in their own local community.)
- Always take time for discussions in class. Ask teens what changes they would make in the world, encourage them to speak out, and take part in the discussions, and show that you are interested in what they have to say.
- Get the parents involved in what the teens are learning. Have the teens ask their parents questions, discuss the lessons, and share knowledge.
- Use memorization exercises, stories, articles, experiences, charts, concordance games, crossword puzzles, trivia games, etc. (Remember teens like recognition and awards, just like the younger children do.)

## RESOURCES:

- BIBLE ACTIVITY SHEETS (By Nellie De Vries)
- HIGH SCHOOL TALK SHEETS (By Zondervan Publishing)
- BIBLE CROSSWORDS (By Linda Krein)
- BIBLE ACTIVITIES OLD TESTAMENT  
(Rainbow Books #36163)
- BIBLE ACTIVITIES NEW TESTAMENT  
(Rainbow Books #36164)
- THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE (By Golden Press)
- (All the above can be found in bookstores)
- BIBLE TRIVIA
- WEB SITES FOR TEENS (See Resource Page 12)
- (You may have to screen out conflicting beliefs, ideas and pictures from some of these resources.)

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**MATERIALS:**

Bible, concordance, dictionary, handbook, binder or notebook, pen or pencil

**SUMMARY:**

Encourage teens always, respect them, make them feel "special", make the lessons fun, interesting, challenging and encouraging. Ask teens what they would like to study and discuss, let them have a part in class decisions and activities. Remember to help them build on the basic foundation already started by their parents.

**Be knowledgeable** - know your subject and theme.

**Be creative** - explore new ways to stimulate, and motivate your class.

**Be genuine** - you can't fool kids.

**Be flexible** - develop a certain structure but allow time for questions, discussions.

**Be enthusiastic** - this goes a long way and leaves a positive impression.

**Always open and close the class with prayer. May God bless all your efforts.**



## “THE NEW SCHOOL PRAYER “

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule.  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green  
That's no offense, it's a freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate  
God's name is prohibited by the state.

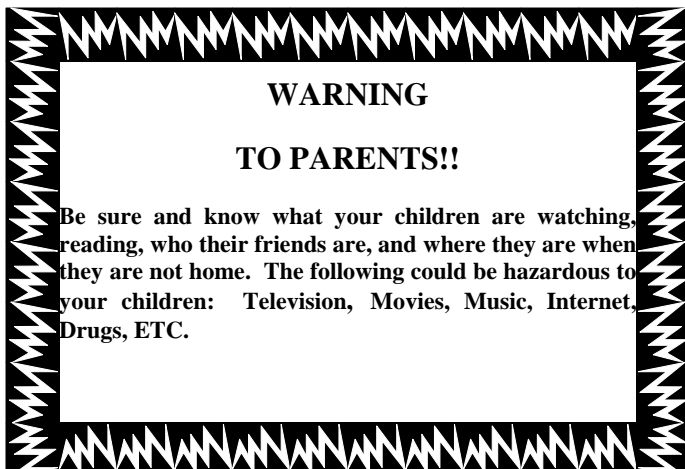
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen  
And the "unwed daddy", our Senior King.  
It's inappropriate to teach right from wrong  
We're taught that such judgments do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make  
Should I be shot, my soul please take!

*(The above was sent around over the Internet, and submitted to TODAY by Carissa Smith.)*



## Don't Listen To Lies



Iron Eyes Cody is a native American actor who once did a TV spot for the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. He was an Indian drifting alone in a canoe. As he saw how our rivers are being polluted, a single tear rolled down his cheek, telling the whole story. This wonderful public service commercial still shows on TV screens after 17 years.

In 1988 Cody repeated an old Indian legend in Guideposts Magazine that is every bit as wonderful as his "tear" commercial. It has been one of the most widely reprinted articles in the 45-year-old history of Guideposts. Here it is:

Many years ago, Indian youths would go away in solitude to prepare for manhood. One such youth hiked into a beautiful valley, green with trees, bright with flowers. There he rested. But on the third day, as he looked up at the surrounding mountains, he noticed one rugged peak, capped with dazzling snow.

"I will test myself against that mountain", he thought. He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over his shoulders and set out to climb the peak.

When he reached the top he stood on the top of the world. He could see forever, and his heart swelled with pride. Then he heard a rattle at his feet, and looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could move, the snake spoke:

"I am about to die," said the snake. "It is too cold for me up here and I am freezing. There is no food and I am starving. Put me under your shirt and take me to the valley."

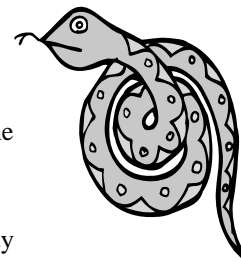
"No," said the youth. "I am forewarned. I know your kind. You are a rattle snake. If I pick you up, you will bite, and your bite will kill me."

"Not so," said the snake. "I will treat you differently. If you do this for me, you will be special. I will not harm you."

The youth resisted for awhile, but this was a very persuasive snake with beautiful markings. At last the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it gently on the grass, when suddenly the snake coiled, rattled and leapt, biting him on the leg.

"But you promised..." cried the youth.

"You knew what I was when you picked me up," said the snake, as it slithered away.



Now, wherever he goes, Iron Eyes Cody tells that story. "I tell it especially to young people who might be tempted by drugs. I want them to remember the words of the snake, 'You knew what I was when you picked me up.'"

*(This story and the following "Teen Creed" was submitted to TODAY by Pam Chambers. We are not sure if Iron Eyes Cody is still alive.)*

## TEEN CREED

Don't let your parents down,  
They brought you up.

Be humble enough to obey,  
You may give orders someday.

Choose companions with care,  
You become what they are.

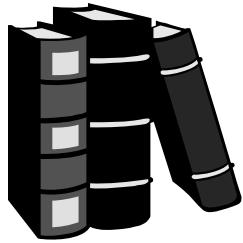
Guard your thoughts.  
What you think you are.

Be master of your habits,  
Or they will master you.

Don't be a show-off when you drive,  
Drive with safety and arrive.

Don't let the crowd pressure you,  
Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.

(Kristone)



# THE RESOURCE CORNER

Compiled by Shelby Faith

**TALK SHEETS**, (By David Lynn) Published by Zondervan Publishing House (Sold at Christian Bookstores)

**Review:** Contains fifty instant discussions for teens covering a variety of topics that young people want to talk about. These are reproducible, and have simple step-by-step instructions on how to use them. They can be utilized for large or small groups, Sabbath school or bible study. Encourages young people to discuss topics they want to talk about.

## YEA SABBATH SCHOOL BOOKS

Published by Christian Education Ministries (CEM), P. O. Box 560, Whitehouse, TX. 75791. Phone: 1-903-509-2999. Email: adm@cemnetwork.com.

**Review:** Sabbath school lessons available for youth of all ages, including intermediates (ages 12 – 15), and seniors (ages 16 – 19). You can order a book for every child in your home or Sabbath school class and teacher's guides also available. Nominal cost.

**SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH (SKY)**, Catalog of resources and lessons available from Church of God, International, P.O. Box 2525, Tyler, TX. 75710 Phone: 1-903-825-2525. You may view SKY at [www.cgi.org](http://www.cgi.org).

**Review:** At this site youth may chat, ask questions, contribute bible stories, etc. Includes teen articles and Newsletter, which can be downloaded. Lesson plans available at the Parent/Teacher Connection Resources at this site also. No cost.

## YOUTH WEB SITE:

[www.ucgyouth.org](http://www.ucgyouth.org)

[www.youthmagazine.org](http://www.youthmagazine.org)

Articles, lessons, question and answer features, youth magazine for teens, can be downloaded.

[www.sabbathschoolint.org](http://www.sabbathschoolint.org)

Contains lessons, activities for all age groups. Can be ordered from this site, free of charge.

## BIBLE ACTIVITY SHEETS

(By Nellie de Vries)

Published by Baker Book House, P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287.

**Review:** Reproducible copyright- free bible activity sheets, contains about 100 activities. (Bookstores)

## THE COMPLETE BOOK OF BIBLE TRIVIA

(By J. Stephen Lang)

Published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

**Review:** Contains about 4,500 questions and answers based on the bible, for all age groups. (Sold at Christian Bookstores).

## BIBLE CROSSWORDS

(By Linda Krein)

Published by Shining Star Publication, Div. Of Good Apple, Inc., Box 299, Carthage, IL 62321-0299

**Review:** Reproducible for ages 8 to adult, contains about 40 pages of crossword puzzles and answers. (Sold at Christian Bookstores).

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*"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers" Proverbs 17:6*