

Parenting Teens - Week #2 - Discipleship and Your Teenagers pt. 1

1. Intro

a. Deut 6:4-7

“Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! ⁵ You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

b. One of the things that we looked at last week was the idea that the parenting task for both toddlers and teens is the same. We are called to be faithful.

c. Our hope is not in our kids' behavior, nor is it found in various circumstances. True hope is found in Christ and His promises. We are to be faithful and trust the Lord for the outcome.

d. Each family may approach a situation differently. And as long as it is not sinful, we must not pass judgment on those decisions, nor must we seek to impose our opinions or ideas on someone else as though it were the only way. The biblical principles are the same for us all, but the application will vary.

2. Parents as the Primary Disciplemakers

- a. One of the problems that many churches have with youth ministry is that many parents view the church youth group as the main source of spiritual teaching and discipleship.
- b. We will look at the role of the church in your teen's life in a minute, but parents must not neglect their duty and role.
- c. Parents must disciple their kids through all sorts of issues, or else the world will do it for them. The following list is not exhaustive, obviously, but just a list of things that often come up in conversation and for which we must be ready to hear them and answer them.
 - i. The Gospel
 - ii. Dating/Sex
 - iii. Money/Jobs
 - iv. Friends
 - v. Conflicts
 - vi. Worldliness
 - vii. Sports/Recreation
 - viii. Entertainment/Media
 - ix. Lifeskills/Self-discipline
 - x. Church
 - xi. The Daily Disciplines of Grace

3. What Should Discipline Look Like?

- a. Again, each family will need to think through how to best faithfully discipline their teen. It will look different for each family and for each teen.
- b. Consistency
 - i. Being faithful to consistently give your teen a discipline and then follow through with it can be very hard. You have other things to be doing, and now you have to stop and make sure they are doing what they are supposed to do.
 - ii. Being consistent with the same consequence for the same sin/response. We did this when they were younger, and we do the same thing during the teen years.
- c. With Love and Grace
 - i. 1 Thess 5:14, “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”
 - ii. Gal 6:1, “Brothers, even if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, *each of you* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”

- iii. We want our kids to know that we love them, and that should still come across even when we are giving them a consequence for their sin.
- iv. Now, there are also times when we want to grant grace and mercy to our teens and maybe lesson or not give them a consequence.

d. The Goal

- i. The goal is to feel a sense of pain. We want to show them that what they were doing is sinful and wrong.
- ii. Prov 26:3, “A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.”
- iii. Prov 23:14, “You shall strike him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol.”
- iv. Discipline is meant to remind them (and you) of their need for the gospel.
- v. Heb 12:7-11, “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Shall we not much

rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for our benefit, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ And all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful, but to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

- vi. The gospel should never be used in an angry and vengeful way, but one in which we are appealing for our child to be saved, to turn from their sin, and turn to Christ.

e. The Method

- i. This is where parents can really vary in the style of discipline they give their children.
- ii. But remember, the goal is not merely to punish them but to instruct them.
- iii. Some examples of discipline for teens:
 - 1. Laborious work
 - a. We had a rule that lying and being disrespectful/arguing brought greater discipline. Which often meant more yard work.
 - b. Moving piles of wood
 - c. Moving cow manure
 - d. Pallets of bricks

e. Cleaning the house

f. Etc.

2. Loss of privileges for a time

a. Hanging out with friends

b. Phone/media usage

c. Not able to go to a certain event or function

4. Church Involvement

a. One of the things that we try to do and teach in Anchored is that the local church is not merely a place to attend, but a place to serve.

b. We need to model to our kids the blessing and benefit of not merely attending church, but being a member of a church. We also want to model using our gifts to serve.

c. While they may not yet profess Christ or they are not sure what they believe, we still want to encourage them to be at church and to serve in various ways.

i. Things like serving at Camp Cornerstone, helping to watch kids during Equipping Class or GC, wood days, set up and tear down, etc. If they are saved, we can help them develop their spiritual gifts.

- ii. Having older men or women hang out with your teen. Going on hikes, skiing, running, hunting, getting food, doing things your child loves to do. Do not be afraid to ask one of the Anchored staff to hang out with your teen.
 - 1. This is not because we are trying to avoid shepherding our kids, but because it can be helpful to have someone else give the same truths, just in a different way.
 - 2. The church is called to disciple one another, and as your teen gets more involved in the church, it is helpful to have them experience the benefit of normal life-on-life discipleship.

5. Daily Disciplines of Grace (bible reading and prayer)

- a. Teaching them how to read the Bible.
 - i. Many different bible reading plans to have them use.
- b. Teaching them how to pray.
 - i. Not merely asking God for things, but to thank Him as well.
 - ii. But also teaching them to ask God for help, wisdom, strength, etc.
- c. Reading books with them based on their current struggles/needs.
 - i. One way could be to have them read a chapter a week, you also read that chapter, and then you talk about it. It is not that you just want to give them a book to read, but that you

are helping them to think through the struggle and apply the biblical principles from the book.

- ii. One thing we are trying to do is think about several things we really want our kids to have convictions on and some basic understandings on. So for homeschool, we are having them read certain biblical counseling books, some Christian worldview books, books on how to think critically and logically, and books on theology.