Keeping Teens Faithful
Proverbs 3:1-8

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Being the parent of a teenager provides one of the ________ challenges of life. Today, we’ll see what Scripture says about ________ faithful teenagers. God’s Word not only teaches ________ to believe, it also teaches how to live righteous and fruitful lives for the Lord. No other book provides the wisdom, the spiritual insight, and the practical advice about relationships and life that the ________ provides. When you fail to study God’s Word, you cheat yourself out of a treasure of _________. The Bible can give you the wisdom you need for your own journey of faith and can help you ________ your children faithful as they mature into adulthood.

The Bible not only provides some of the ________ things we can do to help our children grow in their faith, it also helps us ________ the things that hinder faith. You can’t ________ your children to do what is right if you aren’t practicing what you’re teaching them. Your actions will speak louder than your words, and your teenagers are old enough to see whether you’re _________ in your faith and devotion to God. Teens are looking toward the day when they can make their ________ decisions and live as they please. If they lack a solid spiritual foundation, or if they see hypocrisy and compromise, they’ll likely fail to take the Lord and His Word seriously. Parents, devote yourself to the Lord and _____ His Word. This will help your children ________ in the Lord as well.


Read Psalm 119:9-11. The ___________ of all Christian devotion arises from the Scriptures, the Bible. Because of the Scriptures, we can come to know God, to know Christ, to know the truth, and to know the Christian life. We must not wander from the commandments but _________ them up in our hearts. This will ________ us from sinning against God.

God gave us the book of Proverbs to help parents spiritually ________ their children as they grow older and begin to face the struggles of life. Proverbs is a ________ resource for parents who want to help their teenagers _________ faithful to God. We know God’s Word, found in the Bible, teaches us how to _________ in life as a follower of Christ. Solomon says by inspiration, “My son, do not _________ my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you” (Proverbs 3:1).

Parenting is a lifelong ________. When God first gives us our children, we begin to consider what we will do to ________ our children responsibly. As Christians we want them to become ________ than good citizens. We want them to live godly, committed lives in ________ to God. Every godly parent wants to see his or her children stay ________ to God. Read what the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae in Colossians 2:1-3. Godly parents want that wisdom for their teens.

The first thing you can do to influence your teenagers to serve the Lord is for you, parents, to ________ the way. Parents, you must make a commitment to a daily ________ with the Lord Jesus. You can’t lead your children to serve the Lord if you aren’t willing to serve Him yourself. If you’re
half-hearted, or if you’re a phony, or if you’re only a one-day-a-week Christian, you won’t be able to lead your children to be _______ committed to Christ. There are no perfect parents, I understand that, but parents who openly put the Lord first in their lives have the best opportunity to reach their children for life. Solomon said to his son, “Give me your heart, my son, and let your_______ delight in my ways” (Proverbs 23:26). Parents, do your children delight in your ways as a Christian?

You must set the __________ of the life that you want them to live. If you want them to be moral, then _______ for them a moral lifestyle. If you want them to _______ up their speech, then you must clean up your speech. If you want them to avoid bad _________ that can hurt them, then show them how to abstain from destructive behaviors.

Your children will _______ how to live and how to react to life from you. If you get angry often, why would it surprise you when your child shows anger? If you hold a grudge when your teenager misbehaves, how will he learn what it means to be forgiven? Your teen will live out his Christianity not only by how you live, but also by how you _______ him or her. Sadly, some teens quit the Lord because of the _____ their “Christian” parents treated them. Others quit the Lord because they saw compromise and hypocrisy in their parents’ spiritual lives. If you want your children to be devoted to the Lord, then you _______ devote yourself. You must show yourself an example in “speech, conduct, love, faith and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Don’t let your children look down on you.

The second thing you can do to influence your teens is to _______ regularly for them and with them. Pray for them to _________ like Christ. Pray for them to _________ the temptations they face. Pray for them to find _________ friends and pray for their friends. Let your teenagers know that they are important in your heart to the point that you will pray for them _______.

When you pray, ask God for wisdom to guide you in raising your son or daughter. Each child is different and unique. What works with one may not work with another. You must love them all, but to love them properly means you must _______ them well and what they need. Since children go through phases of life, you need to keep _______ through each phase. A good way to keep track of your children is to pray _______ them about the most important matters of life.

The third thing you can do is to _______ the main thing the main thing. Don’t let the distractions of life build a _______ between your family and God. The Lord Jesus said, “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek _______ His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

Families are so _______ with activities here and there, they can easily drift away from the Lord. School, sports, and other events can take up so much time that little is _______ for the Lord or for the family itself. Some families have no _______ for a spiritual life. Parents must learn to say ____ both to what is wrong and to what crowds out God. If you love your children—I know you do—love them enough to teach them the _______ and to keep them involved in a spiritual life. Love them enough to _______ them what they most need to hear. Love means telling your teens what they _______ to hear, not what they _______ to hear.
The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to urge Timothy to “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness” (1 Timothy 6:11). If we spend all our ________ on other things and give God only what’s left over, we’ll ________ what is really important. Some parents worry more about their children getting into a prestigious university than they do getting into __________. Your high school student knows that. Why then will it surprise you that he’ll ________ more on getting a good education and a good job than staying in church? If your child conquers the world but loses his soul, what ________ will all his accomplishments be?

The fourth thing that you can and must do if you want to influence your teenagers for the Lord is to teach and train them in the _______ of God found in the Bible. “How can a young man keep his way ______? By keeping it according to Your _______” (Psalm 119:9). That is, the Word of God. The number one thing young adults say _______ them faithful to the Lord and to His church through their twenties was the teaching and training that they received growing up. No matter what age your children are, they must continue to _______ God’s Word diligently. The Bible provides enough challenge that a lifetime is not enough to know it thoroughly. God urges us, “like newborn babies, long for the _______ milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord” (1 Peter 2:2-3). Again, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

We should get rid of the notion that we can entertain and ________ our teens into the faith. Some churches spend ________ amounts of money to provide activities that they think will keep their children involved. Some of these activities are fun but have little spiritual ________. Some teens get so involved in their youth group that the youth group replaces the ________. When these teens get too old for the youth group, all of a sudden they feel out of ________ with the whole church. Our youth need to know that they need the church for ________. We cannot entertain young people into Christ; we must get them involved in serving the Lord as ________ of the whole congregation. We must ________ them for a life of service.

Many of the ________ questions come when children get old enough to ask those questions. Parents must continue to ________ in knowledge of God’s Word so they can help their children ________ hard questions. Have you ever wondered how it is or why God chose Abraham to be the ________ of the faithful? In Genesis 18:19 the Lord said to Abraham, “For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to _______ the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the L ORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

Parents must be able to give their children ________ why they believe in God, why they believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, why they believe the Bible, and why they should be members of the church. Parents must often ________ God’s teaching. They should know what God wants us to believe and _______. Parents should build a spiritual ________. They should find books that help them ________ what the Bible says about the moral and spiritual topics that arise as life passes. They should be like the noble-minded Bereans and receive “the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). If your children
____ you a Biblical question, don’t rest until you find God’s answer in Scripture. Don’t discourage questions because that’s how they _______. Help them find answers that will sustain their faith.

As parents, let’s consider our great responsibility to train our children to know and to _______ the Lord. The prophet and priest Ezra “set his heart to _______ the law of the L ORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10). Parents too must set their hearts to study God’s Word, to practice it, and to teach it to their children.

The fifth thing that you can do is get ___________ at church and in the work of the Lord. Teens _______ tremendous spiritual and moral challenges today at school, from the media, and from their peers. They need the encouragement of their parents and other godly teenagers. It helps to know that there are others who ________ their faith in Christ and share their moral values. God gave us the _________ to help us through the challenges of life. When Christians gather to worship, to study, and to serve the Lord, their faith and their commitment grows ___________.

Churches have always been ________ of their Bible classes and youth programs, and I’m thankful for them. But God didn’t give the preacher, the youth minister, or the Bible class teacher the ____ _______ responsibility for spiritually training your children and your teens. He gave that responsibility to you, parents, first and foremost, and especially to _________. The church’s responsibility is not to ________ the parent. Rather the church should train the _________ in how to train their children spiritually. Church leaders, I’m speaking to you. If you want to _______ the church, train parents in how to train their children spiritually. You will ________ every family within the congregation!

The church is always just one generation from falling ________ from God. The book of Judges speaks clearly about how generations _________. One generation can be faithful, while the ______ is unfaithful. Sometimes children turn out to be devoted to God in _______ of their parents. Decide that you’re going to be a help to their ________ and not an obstacle! Take up your cross! Lead your children to follow Jesus Christ.

Parents, start ________ with training your children. Be consistent. Don’t wait until they’re teens to _________ teaching them essential Scriptures, Christian attitudes, respect for God, and about reasons to believe, are important. Devote yourselves to the ______ of leading your children to trust in the Lord and to love God with all their hearts, with all their souls, with all their strength, and with all their minds. You have no greater task and no greater responsibility than to bring your children up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord.

Have you become a Christian? Have your children put on Christ? As teenagers, your children are ready to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and to regard Him as their Lord. They are now old enough to become children of God by repenting of their sins and by putting on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). Baptism is when God unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection according to Romans 6:3-7. Baptism is an immersion in water, but it leads us to the blood of Christ (Romans 6:3). Baptism is when God washes away our sins (Acts 22:16) by crucifying us with Christ and freeing us from sin (Romans 6:6). God wants to free you from sin and to make you His child; why not obey Him, today?