

Preparing a Teen to Leave Home

Series: Family Portraits

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Scripture: Psalm 127

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the word “family”?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Listen to this statement: “It is God’s design for children to eventually leave the home and begin families of their own.” How much fear does this strike in your heart?
2. We know that God is the same God who was on the throne when you were a teenager. Does this give you some peace that He’ll help your kids make it as well?
3. What are some reasons it is hard for parents to release their children into life? What negative things occur when parents struggle to release children?

Letting Go is Difficult (Some reasons given during the sermon)

- a. Parents sometimes live their lives through their children
 - b. Children have been the center of the home.
 - c. Some parents need their children to feel loved.
4. If we are to love our spouse as Christ loved the church, then the marital relationship is to be the primary relationship in the home. What are some ways we can make that happen? How is this empowering and helpful to your children?
 5. A sin can affect your life but it doesn’t have to define your life. How does this help us and help our worry about our children?

6. Children need to struggle some in order to appreciate and be able to handle what they have. Are we willing to let our children struggle some in life? How does this help them grow?
7. If our children reflect to us the honor that we gave our parents, how happy will we be about that? Read Prov. 23:22. (“...listen to your father and do not despise your mother when she is old.”)
8. We should pray for our children often. What are some things we can pray about our children?
9. It’s possible that we can do all the right things and our kids still miss the mark. Have you ever witnessed that? How do we react in the midst of it?
10. We should love imperfect children unconditionally. What are some ways we can do this when we are so disappointed in them?
11. We need to release adult children all the way when it’s time. Do you think this will be difficult for you? Why or why not?

Closing Challenge

Make a commitment to pray for your children daily. Make a list of things that you will pray for them. Begin making plans to release your children and to trust God with who they are and who they will become.