

OLD BETHEL UMC YOUTH

PARENT Connect

MAY 2011



April Game Night
Coloring Eggs

Guide Teenagers on the Road to Independence

“There are no well-adjusted adolescents. Adolescence is, by definition, maladjustment.” That quote from Eugene Peterson isn’t meant to be a putdown. Instead, it’s an important reminder. Well-adjusted teenagers are still fully adolescents, growing in virtually every direction—physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

During this important transition, kids will start separating from you. Some of that is natural and important, as you’ll read on page 3. But it’s possible to stay close to teenagers even as they’re becoming their own individuals.

To impact kids, even when they’re in full-blown rebellion mode:

- Be an aggressive observer by paying careful attention to your kids in their comfort zones.
- Be available to listen as they talk about their struggles.
- Pray for them, that God will touch their hearts and help them own their faith.
- Be patient as God works in the lives of these emerging adults.

Read on for more ideas about handling the push for independence.

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Bible Focus

“When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.”
1 Corinthians 13:11



THE VIEW:

97% of teenagers say they get along with their parents reasonably well. This number is consistently high every year. (Gallup Youth Survey)

After 25 years of research into strong families, Dr. Nick Stinnett determined that regular involvement with one another is a key trait of close parent-child relationships. (Fantastic Families)

Almost 90% of Christian teenagers agree with this statement: "I'm fully convinced that God has created me for a particular purpose in life that will bring glory to him." (Group Magazine)

TIPS:

Many rebellious teenagers are simply crying for help. Here are some ways to answer:

Model God's love and grace. "Human nature reacts to the moment, while grace looks at the big picture," says Tim Kimmel, author of *Why Christian Kids Rebel*.

Create a path to trust. Help troubled teenagers take small steps toward being responsible and earning back the trust they've broken.

Forgive and move on. Don't dwell on past failures. Help teenagers move toward new beginnings. Emphasize that God loves to give second chances.

Expect success. Teenagers usually live up (or down) to labels and expectations. Let them know by your words and actions that you expect the best from them.

While holding high expectations, also accept kids for who they are. If they don't find acceptance from you, they'll turn elsewhere.

Celebrate success. Take time to point out specific progress or change you witness in your teenagers.



FOR DISCUSSION:

Use these questions as a guide to talk with your teen.

Why do the words teenager and rebellion often seem to go hand in hand? Is that an unfair stereotype? Why or why not?

Why do you think most teenagers rebel against their parents? What, if anything, are they trying to show or prove?

What are some healthy, positive ways to declare your growing independence?

How can we stay connected with each other's lives, feelings, and needs as the years pass?



By Steve Merritt

GOING DEEPER

Expert Insight for Parents of Teenagers

In *Group Magazine*, counselor Steve Merritt provides these key insights about teenagers:

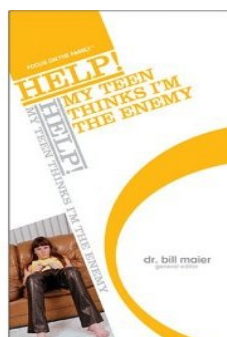
It's easy to fall into either of two traps: forget that teenagers are a work in progress and expect too much, or be consumed with the idea that they're a work in progress and expect too little. So remember:

They're drainers. Teenagers can look adult-like, but generally they still take more resources than they give. Because they're using tremendous energy just to survive adolescence, young people often don't have much extra for others. Of course, they're capable of significant caring, giving, and forgiving. But sustaining these attributes is almost impossible, with the many tasks of growing up.

Intimacy requires a solid sense of identity. That's tough for anyone in our fast-paced, fractured society. Finding your identity requires you to practice and try on different "selves." This process takes its toll on kids but also on adults who love and work with them. Because we're the fuelers, our relationships with kids are often nonreciprocal. This can lead to disappointment, resentment, and frustration.

They need to pull away. On the road to independence, teenagers must take this new life for a test drive, and adults don't get to ride shotgun. Parents often misread such pulling away as rebellion or ungratefulness. On the contrary, it's essential for kids to develop confidence in who they are without us and, more importantly, who they are in God—and who God is in them. Our job is to pour God's love into teenagers' tanks and give them room for self-discovery. Meanwhile, we can learn from kids as we allow God to continue to form our identity in him.

Resource



In *Help! My Teen Thinks I'm the Enemy* (Tyndale House), Focus on the Family psychologist Dr. Bill Maier offers parents advice for building healthy bonds with teenagers.

YOUTH CALENDAR MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10AM Small Groups 10AM Confirmation 12PM Tea Party 6:30PM Youth Worship	7:21 Bible Study @ Starbucks HS Seniors +			7:30PM Band Practice	6PM UMW Family Night	Mission Trip Training 10AM First Aid 1PM CPR Youth Leader Training 10AM Carmel UMC
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10AM Small Groups NO YOUTH WORSHIP MOTHER'S DAY	7:21 Bible Study @ Starbucks HS Seniors +	6PM CONCERT Altar Addicts & E-Noc (Use 21st St. Entrance - park in rear of church)		7:30PM Band Practice	CONFIRMATION RETREAT	CONFIRMATION RETREAT
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CONFIRMATION RETREAT 10AM Small Groups 5PM Band Setup 6:30 PM Youth Worship	6:30PM Youth Leadership Team Meeting 7:21 Bible Study @ Starbucks HS Seniors +			7:30PM Band Practice	7PM ReCHARGE Concert Event 2 Thumbs Up, News From Verona & The Great Transparency	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 10AM Confirmation Reception 5PM Band Practice/Setup 6:30PM Youth Worship	7:21 Bible Study @ Starbucks HS Seniors +			MEMORIAL DAY WORSHIP & PICNIC 4:30 Setup 5:30 Picnic 6:30 Worship 7:30 Band		
29	30	31				
10AM Small Groups 5PM Band Setup 6:30PM Youth Worship MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND NO YOUTH WORSHIP	7:21 Bible Study @ Starbucks HS Seniors +					

YOUTH CALENDAR JUNE 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				7:30PM Band Practice		11AM Car Wash
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 & 11:00 AM Worship GRADUATION RECOGNITION and MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING 10AM Mission Trip/Grad Reception 5PM Mission Trip Picnic				Annual Conference		5AM Mission Trip Departure
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mission Trip - Johns Island, SC - Please pray for a blessed week for all!						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9PM Return From Trip (Estimated Time)			11:30AM-6:30PM Riley Pool Day Pack a lunch, Bible, & \$10.00 for pool admission and dinner	7:30PM Band Practice		
26	27	28	29	30	29	30
			11:30AM-6:30 Riley Pool Day Pack a lunch, Bible & \$10.00 for pool admission and dinner	7:30PM Band Practice		

OBUMC YOUTH



PARENT CONNECT



PARENT FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

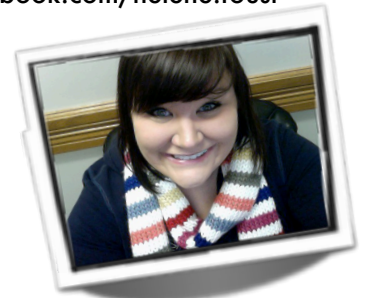
6/3/11
6:30 PM

Game Night!

(Bring a game & snack to share)

Contact **Helene Foust** for more information on Old Bethel's Youth Ministries.

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Parents
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