



mothers of adults Lesson 6

Preparing Young Adults for Life

by Virginia Arnold

*Remember those who led you, who spoke
the word of God to you; and considering
the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.*

Hebrews 13:7

Introduction

What Biblical perspective should already be in place and continuing to develop in the hearts of our children as they move into adulthood?

The **biblical truths** and **their applications** that serve as the answers to four basic questions will help us as parents as we seek to better minister to our young adult children.

1. **Who** am I and **to whom** do I belong?
2. **Where** can I as a young adult obtain help as I make vital, life-impacting decisions?
3. **What** does God want me to do with my life?
4. **How** can I as a young adult prepare for God’s calling on my life?

Preparing For Life – Biblically

1. Who am I and to whom do I belong?

- A. Every human being is subject to his Creator and will one day give an account to Him.

... “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:11-12

- B. Every child is born into a fallen world and as a sinner is under the condemnation of the law of God. *They are described as:*

... dead in the trespasses and sins . . . following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air . . . carrying out the desires of the body and the mind . . . by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

- C. Christian parents have been given the privilege of serving as “ambassadors” of the good news of the gospel to their children.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

II Corinthians 5:20-21

Your job as a Christian parent is to do everything within your power, as an instrument in the hands of the Redeemer who has employed you, to woo, encourage, call, and train your children to willingly and joyfully live as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Paul Tripp

- D. When our children are by God's grace made "*alive together with Christ*", they are raised "*up with Him*" and seated "*with Him in the heavenly places.*"
(Ephesians 2:5-6)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. II Corinthians 5:17

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we would walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10

- E. A Christian young adult must answer the question, "To whom do I belong?"

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." I Corinthians 6:19-20

- F. A Christian young adult will see himself as a servant (slave, bond slave) as did many Biblical saints and as did Jesus Christ in his relationship to His Father.
(Acts 16:17, Roman 1:1; 6:16; II Corinthians 6:4; 11:23; Galatians 1:10, Ephesians 6:5, Philippians 2:7, Titus 1:1; James 1:1; Revelation 1:1)

. . . although He [Christ] existed in the form of God, . . . [He] emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant . . . Philippians 2:6-7

- G. A servant-minded, Christian young adult will long to see his life count for Christ. ("Only what's done for Christ will last.")

For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers . . . Acts 13:36

H. A servant-minded, Christian young adult will desire to finish his life faithful to his Lord and Savior.

Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:23 (KJV)

2. Where can I as a young adult obtain help as I make vital, life-impacting decisions?

A. PARENTS: Parents who have been further down the path of life and have experienced God's faithfulness will love their children unconditionally. They can point their children to the Word of God.

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching . . . Proverbs 1:8-10

Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. **PAST:** *I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths . . .* **FUTURE:** *Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked . . .* Proverbs 4:10-15

B. GODLY LEADERS: Pastors, elders, and teachers are given by God to encourage us in God's Word as we face decisions in life.

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7

Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge . . . That your trust may be in the LORD . . . Proverbs 22:17-19

C. GOD'S WORD: Human instruments ultimately have only one answer to give to those who have questions and struggles in this life, "God has given us His Word and it is to be trusted and obeyed."

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations . . . Therefore I esteem right all Thy precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way. Psalm 119:89-90, 128

3. What does God want me to do with my life?

A. Young man, young woman:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil . . . My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loath His reproof . . . How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver . . . and nothing you desire compares with her. Proverbs 3:5-15

B. Our greatest identity in life is not our vocation. It is in our identity as a joint-heir of Christ who has redeemed us, forever justified us, and chosen us to be His child and His ambassador. Philippians 3:7-8

. . . *“Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.* Jeremiah 9:23-24

4. How can I as a young adult prepare for God’s calling on my life for secular work or ministry?

A. Micah 6:8

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (KJV)

B. Daughters can be encouraged to embrace the characteristics of a godly woman found in Proverbs 31:3-31, Titus 2:3-4, I Timothy 2:9, I Timothy 3:11.

C. Sons can be encouraged to embrace the God-ordained characteristics for young men found in Titus 2:6-8, II Timothy 2:4-7, 15-16; 3:15-16; I Thessalonians 4:10-11; I Timothy 4:10-11; 5:8

D. Colossians 3:23-24

*And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily**, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ*

- E. God has ordained that man work. *But* God cares more about HOW we work than WHERE we work. We serve a higher master and a higher calling than the job itself.

Preparing for Life – Personal Application

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Parents should give planned time and attention to their young single adults. Questions from parents should be followed by much listening when they respond. Listen between the lines – not just what they are saying, but what they AREN'T saying. Give commendation and support for their endeavors, understanding of their struggles, empathy with their emotional conflicts, appeals from Scripture (when needed), and unconditional love. Fervent prayer should be a part of the parent's relationship with his young adult son or daughter.

If they are pursuing Scriptural disobedience we MUST lovingly appeal to them with the Scriptures. (Proverbs 27:5, 17; 28:23, Galatians 6:7-9)

1. Who am I and to whom do I belong?

Young adults must be willing to honestly evaluate their gifts, strengths, and weaknesses and be willing to accept the evaluation of godly counselors. All of our gifts and trained abilities come from God and He uses them in His own way to advance His kingdom. *Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.* 1 Thessalonians 5:24

God has made each person as a unique part of His eternal purposes and has gifted him for a purpose. God will enable individuals to perform in the vocation to which he has called them.

2. Where can I get help as I move into adulthood and make decisions?

- A. **Parents** should remain the main source of encouragement, guidance, and assessment for their young adults. Young adults, in return, should aspire to be more of an asset than a liability in the home – taking on more personal responsibility for their own upkeep; improving in the management of their time, finances, communication, and schedules. Young adults should regularly seek advice and be open to the appeals and admonitions of their parents.
- B. **Godly leaders. Pastors, elders and teachers** are glad to share the Word with young adults and pray for them when they seek advice and direction for life.
- C. **Your church family.** Ask for their prayers. Be open to their suggestions and evaluations of your abilities. Volunteer your time and talents to a variety of ministries. Look for ways to meet needs in the ministry that don't necessarily benefit you.
- D. **Christian mentors and leaders** in the area of the expertise and the vocation that you are pursuing can often give you a realistic understanding of their profession, recommend the best sources for training, and provide internship experiences.
- E. **God's Word** must continue to be the lamp to our feet and the light for our path.

3. What does God want me to do with my life? Education? Job? Marriage?

Enter the doors of opportunity that God DOES open and remain diligent and focused with the tasks that he has called you to do. Pray for the next step in his leading. And wait – prayerfully – for His leading and provision.

- **Wait on the Lord.**

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:13-14

- **Be content.**

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. . . . But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
I Timothy 6:6-9

4. **How can I as a young adult prepare for God’s calling on my life?**

Serve the Lord inside and outside of your home with diligence, hard work, and dependability. Difficulties often serve as a test – and an opportunity – to see God empower you and provide for the task that He has called you to do.

Hudson Taylor, a great nineteenth-century pioneer missionary to China said, *“A little thing is a little thing, but **faithfulness in a little thing is a big thing.**”*