

Lesson 9



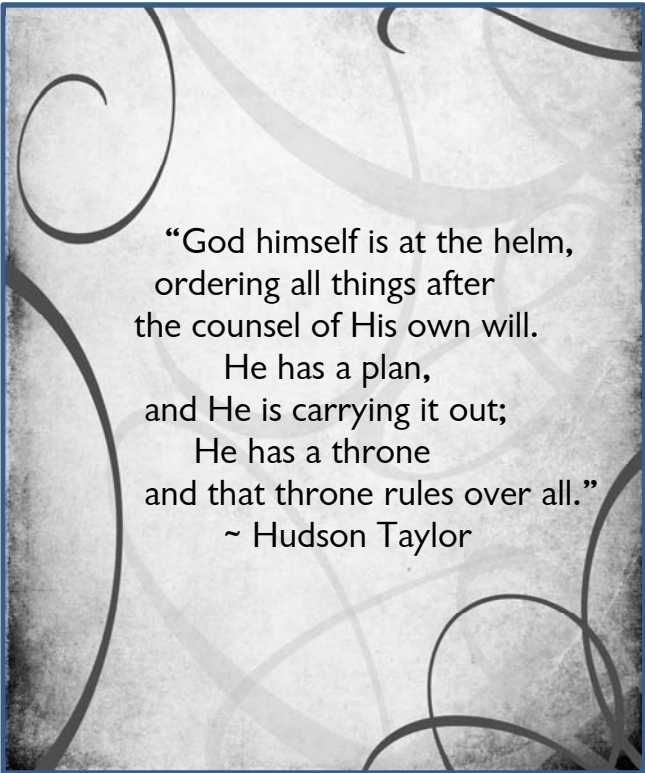
Preparing Teens for Life Panel Discussion

*For the LORD gives wisdom;
from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
guarding the paths of justice,
and He preserves the way of His godly ones.
~ Proverbs 2:6-8*

Introduction

In preparing our teens for life, we are attempting to direct their steps, to point them to upright paths, and to teach them to walk uprightly. Some of our teens are still children in the Lord and will be taking baby steps as God works His sanctification in their lives. But our confidence is that *all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

And for our teens who have not yet yielded to Christ, we rely on Scripture's promises as well as its instruction: *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.* (Isaiah 55:11)



“God himself is at the helm,
ordering all things after
the counsel of His own will.
He has a plan,
and He is carrying it out;
He has a throne
and that throne rules over all.”
~ Hudson Taylor

*I will instruct you
and teach you in the way
which you should go;
I will counsel you
with My eye upon you.
~ Psalm 32:8*

Life Skills

Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding. (Proverbs 9:6)

How can we teach our teens manners and neatness?

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

How can we approach teen time management?

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

How can we teach a good work ethic?

The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work. (Proverbs 21:25)

What's involved in channeling our preteens' and teens' personalities and talents?

*For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **each of us is to exercise them accordingly.** (Romans 12:4-6)*

Life Choices

Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. (Psalm 25:12)

How can we train our children to use discernment in their choices?

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.
(1 Corinthians 10:23)

- in their friends

- in the music they listen to

- in the books they read

- in visual entertainment

“Biblical discernment operates on two levels. Sometimes it requires choosing between good and evil. But more often it requires choosing between what is acceptable and what is best.” *Bob Jones University Student Handbook*, p. 8.

How can we determine what type of education to direct our teens to?

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

What should we do to prepare our teens for marriage—or for the possibility of singleness?

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.” (Lamentations 3:24)

Scripture to Encourage Our Teens in Their Walk

*You will make known to me the **path of life**; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever. (Psalm 16:11)*

*The **steps** of a man are established by the LORD; and He delights in his way. (Psalm 37:23)*

*Make me **walk in the path** of Your commandments, for I delight in it. (Psalm 119:35)*

*So you will **walk in the way** of good men, and **keep to the paths** of the righteous. (Proverbs 2:20)*

*I have directed you **in the way** of wisdom; I have led you **in upright paths**. (Proverbs 4:11)*

*But the **path of the righteous** is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. (Proverbs 4:18)*

*I [wisdom] walk **in the way** of righteousness, in the midst of **the paths of justice**. (Proverbs 8:20)*

***In the way** of righteousness is life, and **in its pathway** there is no death. (Proverbs 12:28)*

*The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his **steps**. (Proverbs 16:9)*



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