

SENIOR HIGH STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Stages of Student Development II

Youth Workers' Training • September 10, 2005

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1. Physical

- Outgrow awkwardness
 - Provide recreation that allows them to display their newfound agility
- Attractive, grown-up appearance (complexion clears some)
 - Give them responsibilities that take their mind off themselves
 - Keep them from being so self-centered
- Excessive appetite (may go to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco)
 - Teach body is temple of Holy Spirit
 - Treat body properly
 - Discipline
- Physical habits are being formed
 - Proper habits should be encouraged – sleeping, eating, exercise, food

Key Physical Characteristic: Grown-Up Appearance

2. Mental

- Reasoning powers reach new heights (serious doubts may arise)
 - We should be knowledgeable and scholarly
 - Sound doctrine
 - Basis for faith
 - Like arguments and debates
 - Discussions and tough questions can be used to strengthen faith
 - Be approachable and welcome tough questions
 - Creative and idealistic (naïve, impractical, unrealistic)
 - Help in planning and decorating for events
 - Better judgment
 - Lead them to their own conclusions from God's Word as it relates to their lives.
 - Teach to build discernment and wisdom into their hearts
 - Imagination under control of reason and judgment
 - We should realize their ability to make good decisions
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- Teach them how to use reason and judgment biblically
- Subject to suggestion (especially from peer groups)
 - Work through other teens who are leaders

Key Mental Characteristic: Reasoning Powers Improved

3. Social

- Belongs to clique or exclusive social group
 - Teach advantages and disadvantages of close friends
 - Build group unity and strong youth group spirit
 - Promote “expandable cliques”
- Attracted to opposite sex
 - Teach appropriate treatment of opposite sex
 - Train proper Christian dating and discourage exclusivity
 - Guard against emotional attachment that could lead to promiscuity
 - Co-ed activities with supervision
 - Maintain high accountability (visual)
- Interested in personal traits and appearance
 - Teach proper dress codes and hygiene
- Wants social approval
 - Help them see and seek God’s approval
- Trying to find their place in society
 - Teach them to seek and follow God’s will
 - Counsel them about God’s will
 - Discuss career possibilities
- Increasing desire to help others
 - Emphasize soulwinning and ministry
 - Emphasize missions
 - Provide outlets where they can serve and meet needs

Key Social Characteristic: Belongs to Clique

4. Emotional

- Emotions still intense (crushes, jealousy, envy)
 - Don’t expect adult stability
 - Teach Biblical stability in Christ
 - Teach Spirit controlled life
 - More ability to control emotions
 - Be sure they have someone to vent to (God, godly counselors)
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LBC Student Ministry • Basic Training

- We need to be competent counselors (turn them to Scripture)
- May be moody (hold emotions in)
 - Vent emotions through time together in recreation and conversation
- Wants security (like going steady)
 - Show them their worth in God's plan
 - Teach them security in Christ and His Word
- Wants a thrill
 - Provide exciting activities
 - Show them that serving Christ is the most exciting thing to do

Key Emotional Characteristic: Wants a Thrill

5. Spiritual

- Religion is personal
 - Teach Bible principles and standards
 - Focus on practical application
- Religion is one of action
 - Challenge them for Christian service
 - Involve them in opportunities for service
- Religion is emotional
 - Challenge them to submit emotions to the Spirit of God
 - Challenge them to be spiritual first, whether emotions are there or not
- Religious doubts may increase
 - Deal with answers candidly and openly
 - Deal with problem areas head-on with discussion
- Responsive to an atmosphere reverence
 - Create a reverent mood at times (youth retreats)
 - Be an example of a godly Christian

Key Spiritual Characteristic: Religion is One of Action
