

## ***SURVIVING YOUR CHILD'S TEEN YEARS***

1. Choose your battle grounds carefully
  - What do you argue over?
  - Many times we major on the minors... ask yourself before making a significant issue of something... does this have any lasting or eternal significance?
  - The more angry and on the edge your teen is, the more careful you must be with that which you choose to make issues.
2. Be willing to say "I'm sorry, will you forgive me?"
  - What right do I have to be respected when I'm right if I can't admit when I'm wrong?
3. Plan family fun
  - Every teenager likes fun...
  - Every family needs fun...
4. Schedule your life to deal with the challenges -
  - Often the teen years are our busiest years of labor, but they are the times when our family needs us, perhaps, more than ever.
  - Teen years and midlife crisis happen to your family at the same time...
  - Get rest and manage your schedule in such a way that you give some of your best time to your family. (go soulwinning together, serve together...)
5. Deliberately cultivate common interests -
  - What common ground are you cultivating with your impressionable teenager?  
A teen boy desperately needs a man to develop common interests and experiences... without these he is destined to rebel.
6. Exercise controlled, predictable, and consistent discipline when needed
  - Outbursts, loss of control, temper flares, kill your ability to discipline correctly and greatly diminishes your authority in your teen's eyes.
  - Unreasonable punishment or unpredictable responses kill your influence.
7. Display affection and compassion to your teenager
  - Hug them
  - Kiss them
  - Put your arm around them

## LBC Student Ministry • Parent Teaching Materials

- The teen years represent a battle ground that is only won by diligence and grace.
- Only God can bring about the spiritual work that needs to take place.
- Your teen will thank you one day for the hours you spent praying for them and with them.

### 2. Seek to understand your teen

- Stay close to your teen, emotionally.
- Know the issues they are facing.
- Ask a lot of questions.
- Be a good listener.
- Create a comfortable environment for conversation and interaction.
- Remember how it was for you.

### 3. Stay in the battle

- The fact that you are in the battle says to your teen that you care.
  - To give up says that you don't care.
  - They will make it through and so will you, with good memories and a promising future with the grandkids.
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