



JULY 2014

Purposeful Parenting
Connecting Church and Family
Deut.6:7

Adolescents

Parenting Kids through adolescence

When you are young parents of small children, it is hard to imagine what the teenage and adolescent years will be like in your home. Those years seem to be so far away and the important items on your agenda at the moment are making sure there are enough diapers in the house and getting little ones to sleep through the night.

But before you know it, you have baked many birthday cakes, bandaged many booboos, and purchased many pairs of shoes for their rapidly growing feet. You are face to face with a stage of life where once small children are now growing into young men and women and you ask yourself the difficult question, "Are they truly prepared for what life will bring them on their own?" You ask yourself if you have equipped your child with the ability to make healthy decisions. You wonder if the ground work was laid to help your child manage the tough years of adolescence.

No parent is perfect, myself included, and no parent can predict the difficulties that lie ahead for your kids. But God is the perfect parent and God already knows what is coming.

I am so grateful for my husband Russell's leadership in our home. From the beginning, when our kids were young we established that God was a part of our family. We weren't just the seven Dorchs, but God and the seven Dorchs. Conversations about faith and trust in Him were always happening. We desired for God to lead us in raising our children.

Some of our practices are:

Faithful prayer time: Prayer not only happens at meals and bedtime but in all things. Going to the Father for guidance isn't just something we talk about doing but something that we do. We want our children to know that God is always present and that His desires for us are always better than our own. There are circumstances too numerous to count, where only God can satisfy their needs. It gives us the freedom to say, "I don't know, but God does"... "That's too big for me as a parent, but not too big for God". We fully understand that God put us in their lives as part of His means to nurture their holistic development, but we try to be quick to point out the areas in our parenting where we are in desperate trust in Him.

The Word: We always try to connect the truth of God's word with the circumstances they are facing: the Bible is at our disposal, it is our guideline for living. Teach kids to self-feed. Learn to look up scripture topically, study books in the bible to know the person of Jesus on His terms. When we don't know what to do in a situation, we try to turn to the word first.

Personal relationship with God: As a parent, leader, and role model in my home I know I need to live out the practices that I desire my family to live by. Before I can bring God to my family, God has to be a part of me. Leading your family to a well that you don't personally drink from is not only impossible to sustain over time, it can also give them a Christian world view that is watered down, insincere, and devoid of the real life that only comes from walking in the Spirit. The greatest gift that you can give your family is to pursue a love relationship with Jesus.

Personal time with children: If you are a parent of multiple children, I feel it is very important to spend time with them individually. Just like our relationship with Christ is so personal and important, a parent's relationship with their child is also very valuable. When you have time together with your child you are not only showing them that they are valuable, but you have the opportunity to talk through and discuss matters of faith.

Being a parent has been super fun and very rewarding and as a little girl it was the only job I wanted to have as an adult. Now after being a mom for over twenty-two years I cannot imagine having the job of being a parent without God. As much as I love my children, I learned that He loves them so much more. He wants to be with me as I traveled this road called parenthood and to show me how to raise my kids and how to parent them through the difficult times. I am truly grateful that God desires to be a part of all phases of our life.

No matter how old your children are or what your family circumstances have been there is room in your home for God. He wants your heart and the job of leading your family. His desires for us are greater than any desires we can imagine.

-Dana Dorch, Mosaic KidMo 123 Team Leader

Family Tool Box

Resources for raising adolescents

Books

[Parenting Today's Adolescent](#) - (Dennis Rainey) Helping your child avoid the traps of the preteen and teen years.

[Accelerate: Parenting Teenagers Toward Adulthood](#) - (Richard Ross) How not to find your 25 year old still living in your basement (great for parents with preteens as well).

[Generation iY: Our Last Chance to Save Their Future](#) - (Tim Elmore) This landmark book paints a compelling-and sobering-picture of what could happen to our society if we don't change the way we relate to today's teens and young adults.

[Artificial Maturity: Helping Kids Meet the Challenge of Becoming Authentic Adults](#) - (Tim Elmore) gives parents, teachers, and others who work with youth a manual for understanding and practicing the leadership kids so desperately need to mature in a healthy fashion.

[Playing for Keeps/Losing Your Marbles](#) - (Reggie Joiner) for anybody who will do anything with a kid or teenager this week.

Articles

[Two Relational Styles: Holding and Tossing](#) - How control and responsibility affect the relationship between you and your teen.

[Two More Relational Styles: Grabbing and Folding](#)

Products

[Parent Checkup: seeing through the eyes of your teenager](#) - This laminated pamphlet presents 31 powerful questions, one to be reviewed each day of the month. Parents are invited to guess how their teenager would answer questions about their relationship, faith, and spiritual leadership.

What's Happening?

Calendar of Events: July-August

July 16: **Mosaic Swim Night**, 8pm-10pm, Springdale Aquatic Center

June 19: **Parent/Child Dedication**, 5pm

August 2: **Next Gen**, junior high students worship with families

August 2: **Family Ministry Training**, for all leaders birth through high school

Stay Connected



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Early Childhood / Elementary /
Students

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7