

BIG IDEA

The gospel should shape the way you parent your high schooler and should affect every area of your high schooler's life.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- *Jesus is the only way to salvation* (John 14:6).
- *The Scripture equips us to live for God* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- *It is important to be involved with the local church* (Heb. 10:24-25).
- *We should be transformed by God, not conformed to the world* (Rom. 12:1-2).



KEY QUESTIONS YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER IS ASKING

- How do I know Christianity is real?
- Why do I have to go to church?
- Is Jesus really the only way to salvation and heaven?
- Am I truly saved?



AT THIS AGE MOST HIGH SCHOOLERS WILL ...

- Have some knowledge of other faiths and religious beliefs and may personally encounter these in friendships and acquaintances.
- Be involved with a number of activities that affects their church attendance.
- Continue to be concerned about being alienated and fitting in.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Youth at this age will be abstract thinkers, enabling them to wrestle with the doctrines of the faith.
- The change from concrete to abstract thinking may also cause high school students to doubt their personal faith. They may wonder if their childhood decision to follow Christ was authentic.
- At some point during these high school years, most students will obtain their driving licenses. This gives them more freedom to pursue jobs, hobbies, and relationships.
- Some high schoolers are now given the opportunity to choose their level of participation in a local church. Their parents have moved from insisting they go to encouraging their involvement.



COACHING TIPS

- While the student minister and the ministry he or she leads in your church is important to your high schooler's faith development, you are still the primary spiritual developer of your teenager. Continue to have spiritual conversations that challenge your high schooler and hold him accountable.
- If your high schooler was saved at a young age, it's a good possibility she will have doubts about her salvation. Listen closely to what she's saying and evaluate the spiritual fruit of her life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern the truth. Make sure her salvation is based on repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ.
- Don't be hypocritical. Don't let your spiritual instruction be, "Do as I say, not as I do." You are setting the example of what it means to walk with Christ. You don't have to be perfect, but you should be authentic. Keep in mind that rarely will a student rise above the spiritual level of his or her parents.
- These are the last few years to spiritually prepare your child to move out into the world. Make a list of what you want them to know before they leave your home; then be intentional about completing the list.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS THINK ABOUT JESUS?** This will help you assess the spiritual atmosphere in which your high schooler is operating. Also, this question could lead to a conversation about the need for Christians to share our faith with others.
- **IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT OUR CHURCH, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** Find out how your high schooler feels about church. Be a good listener. Don't condemn their feelings, and don't jump to defend the church too quickly.
- **WHO IS THE BEST CHRISTIAN YOU KNOW? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HIM OR HER?** Find out what your student values when it comes to a life of faith.



SAY OR PRAY

- Pray for your high schooler to have a true evaluation of his spiritual condition.
- Pray that your high schooler will be teachable and desire to grow in Christ.
- Encourage your high schooler to share her faith with those who don't know Christ.
- Pray that you would model an authentic Spirit-filled walk with Christ.