

Parenting Points

After research and interviews done among teens and young adults, the top three things teens need from parents are:

1. **To Listen**
2. **Spend Time**
3. **Place Boundaries**

As parents it is imperative that we be:

Available

Approachable

Acceptable

Communicating with our teens should be similar to how we communicate with our Heavenly Father. As God's children we approach Him when we have a request, when we are happy and want to rejoice and when we are sad or disappointed. When we want to recognize Him for who He is, we go before Him. There are times when we are "independent" from Him and want to do things on our own. The consequences may be severe, but He is there for us when all fails. We, as parents, need to do the same. Have you heard God say to you, "I told you so?" Or, does He say, "I'm here, it's easier if you invite me along. Let's start over and try it another way".

We need to display this same mode of communication and expression with our teens. It is imperative that we meet our teens where they are; in the midst of their world and issues.

The hope is that we as parents become that place of rest for our kids, a place they might be restored. A similar scripture that is the basis for this thought- Matt 11:28

"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden (the teen) and I will give you rest for your soul", (parents' role) ~ Mark Gregston

Heartlight Ministries