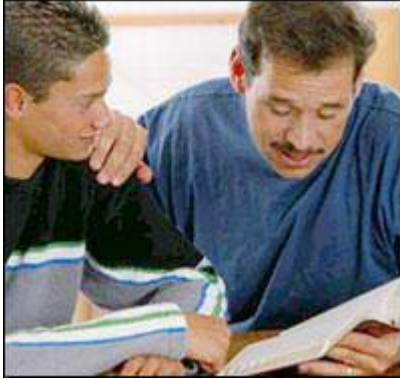


Encouraging a relationship with Christ



The Bible clearly states that parents are to instruct, teach, and encourage their son or daughter in their relationship with God.

The biggest responsibility a parent has in life is the process of discipling their children. The Bible clearly states that parents are to instruct, teach, and encourage their son or daughter in their relationship with Christ. Deuteronomy 6:7-9 tells us that we are to teach God's Word everywhere we go...when we sit, walk, lie down, get up, tie them around our hands, and write them everywhere you go. Because this is such a huge responsibility, any parent can get overwhelmed with the task. So, what can be done and how can we effectively disciple our teens? Here are four things to get you started. First, how you live and model your life is so important in the spiritual development of your teen. Do you find time to read God's Word? Do you practice what you preach? When you do this, you are literally teaching the Word of God everywhere you go. Second, once you live it, then the words you say will further instruct and encourage your teen's relationship with Christ. Whether it is talking about God in the car, at the dinner table, or at a weekly family Bible study, your daily instruction will be there to help your teens make right decisions. Third, surround your teen with a group of people to help you equip him/her for spiritual maturity. The church is a community that works together to teach, instruct, and encourage each other. Don't push the responsibility of discipling your teen on other people, but use these people to come along side you for help and support. Fourth, get on your knees and pray! Ask God to use you, your mistakes and all, to grow your teen to spiritual maturity.

Welcome to "theParentLink"

This is a new resource designed just for youth parents. Each month you will find different kinds of articles and resources, from youth culture updates to book and music reviews, which are meant to help you better understand and communicate with your teenager.

Lets face it, teenagers live in a world that often seems foreign to us and the messages they receive from culture can be overwhelming. While the means of communication have changed and the messages they receive are strong, the truth is teenagers face the same basic challenges that we all face. Questions like...who am I? why am I here? do people like me? why is Jack so angry all the time on 24? Typical questions.

The goal of this newsletter is to help parents better understand the culture our youth face and how we can help them become stronger followers of Christ.

Walking beside you,
Jeff
jeffa@collegeparkbaptist.org

Pulse

Do you find any of these results surprising?

Teens were asked, "Who is your biggest hero?" (top 5 responses)

- 34% - A Parent
- 22% - A Pastor/Spiritual Leader
- 20% - Other
- 8% - Musician
- 7% - Teacher/Coach

family.org



Does your family meet together regularly for a time of prayer?

- 33% - Yes
- 67% - No

briomag.com

The Parent POV

(point of view)

Ever wonder what your teen thinks about you being his/her primary discipler? Try asking them the best way to teach them about being a true follower of Jesus Christ. Here are some questions to start this process:

1. If you could choose to be disciplined by any one person, who would you choose and why?
2. On a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being the highest), how important do you think it is to learn about God from someone other than yourself? Why do you think that?
3. Who do you think is primarily responsible for teaching you about Christ ... yourself, your parents, your Student Minister, or your friends? Why? Do you think they are doing a good job? Why or why not?
4. Do you find it hard to learn from and listen to your parents about what they have to say about God? Why or why not?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. God will give your family the desire to spend time each week studying the Scripture, praying for each other, and keeping each other accountable.
2. God will help you live a life that will disciple your teen by the example you set, not just by what you say.
3. God will give your teen the burning desire to know Him more and to make Him known to others.
4. God will surround your family with a community of friends and family that will pray for and encourage your family as each of you learn and grow in your relationship with Christ.

A Blog Just for Parents - <http://theparkparents.blogspot.com/>

We have created a brand new way for parents of College Park youth to communicate. It is a CPBC blog/web site called "theparkparents" and it can be found at the address above. Articles on various topics and event updates will be posted on this site. Anyone is able to comment on an article, ask questions, and find links to other web sites that deal with issues that parents of teenagers face.

The first post to the blog is an article I did on my recent use of the MySpace web site. MySpace is a site that millions of teenagers use to communicate with friends. I hope that you take the time to read the blog or at least do research on what MySpace is all about. It would definitely be worth your time.

The goal of the blog is to be a place of support for our parents. If you have an idea for an article or you want to write one, please let me know. (jeffa@collegeparkbaptist.org)

Enjoy!



Did you know...

* Only four percent of teens can be considered evangelical Christians, down from 10 percent in 1995. An overwhelming majority of teens say they are "Christian," but their responses to a few simple questions concerning biblical doctrine clearly demonstrate that, despite what our children say, they are not. (worldnetdaily.com)

* The more involved the family is in religious activities done together, the more likely the teenager is to engage in religious activity, to expect to continue those religious pursuits upon leaving home, and to perceive religion to be significant and additive to life. (barna.org)



Music alternative

Smokie Norful burst fully onto the music scene with his gold-selling album, "I Need You Now." His music has several times hit the top of Billboard Gospel as well as spending an impressive two years on the magazine's Gospel Top 40 Chart. This singer/songwriter and seminary graduate was raised the son of a minister. He began singing in church at age 4. His music has several sounds including urban, inspirational, good-time funk, R&B, praise and worship, pop balladry, and down-home blues. He gives God credit for his success saying, "You can chase after success ... unless God ordains it, it really doesn't matter." smokienorful.com

TRENDS

**It is almost prom time again!
Here are some tips from
fashion.about.com:**

For **girls** it's all about:

- *interesting necklines
- *pretty fabrics
- *sparkling touches

For **guys** try:

- *smooth cufflinks
- *funky lapel trim
- *bow tie or regular necktie
- *monochromatic look

music spotlight



**Albums:
Albums:**

"In My Own Words" -
2/2006

Background:

Shaffer C. Smith, a.k.a. Ne-yo, was born into a musical family where he was raised by his mother. She relocated the family to Las Vegas, Nevada in hopes of a better opportunity. From an early age, Ne-yo had a "vivid imagination and creative energy" which helped him become a song writer. Some of his written songs have had the honor of being one of the biggest radio records in history with 189.5 million listeners in one week as well as being on Billboard's #1 R&B spot for several weeks. He has written for such artists as Mary J. Blige, B2K and Faith Evans. His debut album is said to, "deliver infusing pop melodies to rich, soulful production."

What Parents Should Know: Ne-yo's album has a clean version of the original. It contains uncountable direct, indirect and slang references to sex and infidelity. It also contains foul language.

Parent/Teen Q&A: Ne-yo says, "My slogan is if you stay ready, you don't have to get ready. Knowing that there's some 11-year-old at home right now in his mirror dancing and practicing, coming for my spot," he says. "I'll never, ever let it go to my head." Q: Do you agree with Ne-yo's slogan? How hard are you willing to work to be the "best" at something?

FILMWATCH



Know which movies are releasing this month...will your teen want to see these?

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
The Benchwarmers	PG-13	For crude and suggestive humor and for language	Comedy	David Spade, Jon Heder, Rob Schneider, Jon Lovitz, Tim Meadows
Alpha Dog	R	For pervasive drug use and language, strong violence, sexuality and nudity	Drama	Nick Cassavetes, Justin Timberlake, Sharon Stone, Emile Hirsch, Anton Yelchin
Waist Deep	R	For strong violence and pervasive language	Action/adventure, drama	Tyrese, The Game, Meagan Good, Eric Lane, Larenz Tate

APRIL 2006 SCHEDULE

NORMAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

April 2	9:00 AM	Normal Sunday Schedule plus Youth Council Meeting (Youth Room)
April 4-7		Youth Spring Break Retreat (Caswell)
April 5		No Wednesday Night Activities
April 9	10:45 AM	Palm Sunday Service Normal Sunday Schedule
April 12		No Wednesday Night Activities
April 13	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
April 14	7:00 PM	Tenebrae Service
April 15	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt (Preschool-2 nd grade)
April 16	10:45 AM	Easter Sunday Service No Sunday PM Activities
April 19		Normal Wednesday Schedule
April 23	12:15 PM	Normal Sunday Schedule plus Youth go to La Carreta after church
April 26		Normal Wednesday Schedule
April 28-29		Family Ministry Team Planning Retreat Lake Hickory/Hollifield Leadership Cntr
April 30		Normal Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:45 AM	Worship
4:00 PM	Ainesis
5:00 PM	Youth Crosstraining
5:45 PM	Snack Supper
6:15 PM	Youth Discipleship
7:00 PM	L.I.F.E. Worship Service

NORMAL WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 PM	Family Night Supper Youth Bible Study - "Jesus, the One and Only"
6:45 PM	Youth Discipleship/ Missions



**COMING IN
MAY 2006**

*May 7 - Spring Fling
May 14 - Mother's Day
May 21 - Youth Sunday
May 26-28 - Children's Camp*

CPBC Family Ministry
College Park Baptist Church
1701 Polo Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106



theParentLink

a newsletter for parents of teenagers

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