



Encouraging Your Teen's Talents



"God has entrusted your teen with great talents, gifts, and abilities to reach every goal He has placed in front of them."

One of the greatest joys you can have as a parent is to see your teen master a task or excel in an activity. God has entrusted your teen with talents, gifts, and abilities to reach every goal He has placed in front of them. You now have the great task of helping your teen find their gifts and talents, figure out their spiritual gifts and how to use them.

All parents have dreams and plans for their teen. Great frustration and strife can arise when your plans don't match up with your teen's plans. A huge mistake you can make at parenting is to push your own dreams on your teen. Help your teen find their own passion by observing what they excel in, listening to their ideas and passions, and then strategically placing them in areas that allow them to learn and grow in their area of passion.

Finding and defining your teen's spiritual gifts is vitally important. This is a difficult task because so many adults don't know their own spiritual gifts. The Bible gives partial lists in several places throughout Scripture, including Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:6-10, and I Peter 4:11. Read these verses with your teen and then send them on a fact-finding mission. Have them see if your church offers a spiritual gifts test. Have them talk to mature Christian mentors or leaders who know them best in order to get their opinion on the gifts they see displayed in their lives.

By helping your teen develop their spiritual gifts and teaching them how those gifts complement their God-given talents and abilities, you can be confident that your teen will live a life of greater purpose and fulfillment in their job, their family, or whatever God calls them to do.

Fall Fair Fundraising!

During the Fall Fair, there are 3 different ways that your child can earn money for their Personal Youth Account.

First off, they can sign up to work a shift at our table (9 am - 3 pm). We will be selling calendars and funds made will be divided between table workers.

Secondly, they can make their own crafts and baked goods to sell at the table. They earn money for what they bring, whether or not they are able to work the table since they put in the outside effort.

Lastly, they can help clean up at the end. This includes helping others load items into their vehicles, putting away tables and chairs, and sweeping.

Senior High have the first opportunity to sign up, but then it will be open to Junior High as well. Please contact Sally (651-484-5142) or Megan Goodwin (651-587-5469) to sign up or add items to the table.

Pulse

Here are some interesting findings:

Teen guys were asked, "What is your top life goal?"

- 40% - Become more spiritual
- 27% - Help people who need help
- 16% - Be a leader in your community
- 10% - Get rich
- 8% - Be famous

(breakawaymag.com)



Teen girls were asked, "Do you know what type of career or vocation you want to pursue?"

- 62% - Yes
- 38% - No

(briomag.com)

The Parent POV

(point of view)

Isn't it fun to think about your teen's talents and abilities? Here are some fun and thought provoking questions to help your teen figure out where their passions lie and what they like to do.

1. What can you do that most people can't?
2. What gifts or talents do you think God has given you? Why do you think that?
3. If you were to ask God to give you the ultimate dream job, what would it be? What steps are you taking right now to reach that dream job?
4. Are you happy with the gifts and talents God has given you? Why or why not?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. God will reveal to your teen his/her spiritual gifts and that they will practice using these God-given gifts to honor Him.
2. Your teen will be reminded every day that God is the Giver of "every good and perfect gift" as stated in James 1:17.
3. God will protect your teen from comparing their gifts and talents with other teens.
4. God will give you patience as your teen prayerfully considers God's vocational plan for their life. Pray that you will be supportive no matter their choice.

Senior High Mystery Dinner!

Coming up in November, the Senior High will once again have the chance to participate in the Mystery Dinner.

November 10th
6-9 pm
Deadline to sign up is November 4th!

Please encourage your children to sign up earlier than the deadline. We assign parts so they need time to figure out what to wear and how they will act out their part.

We are also looking for suggestions as far as the menu. Robin Peterson is heading up the meal and is looking for people to contribute the various courses (soup or salad, main dish, dessert). Please contact her at 651-481-0599 to make a contribution.

We hope your children can join us for this fun event. It gives them a chance to show their dramatic side!



Did you know...

* Nearly 71% of teens believe the "American Dream" is still achievable while only 10% believe it is not achievable. (jobshadow.com)

* Passion about an occupation is the greatest motivation for teens selecting a career (57%), followed by the opportunity to help people (21%), and money (12%). (ja.org)

* Students were asked to select the single source they would access for information on career choices. Teacher/Counselor was selected by 31%, followed by "People in the Field" (24%), the Internet (19%), and a parent (13%). (ja.org)

* By a ratio of nearly four-to-one, adults in this country say that American parents are placing too little (56%) rather than too much (15%) pressure on students, with the remaining quarter (24%) saying that parents are exerting the right amount of pressure. (pewresearch.org)



Music alternative

Flame (Marcus William-Gray) grew up in the inner city of St. Louis where he was influenced by hip-hop culture. He credits his grandmother for introducing him to Christianity, and at the age of 16 he gave his life to Christ. Cross Movement was Flame's first Christian rap CD to hear, and it changed his life. In 2000, Flame went to a Cross Movement concert and gave the group a demo CD. As a result, he was invited on the Platinum Souls tour. Shortly after, he signed with the Cross Movement Records label. With his debut album releasing in 2004, he gained a following in no time. He received a Dove Award nomination for Gospel Rap Song of the Year. (wikipedia.org)

trends

Here are the top searched designer jeans on AOL:

1. True Religion Jeans
2. Seven Jeans
3. Lucky Brand Jeans
4. Red Money Jeans
5. Evisu Jeans
6. Diesel Jeans
7. DNKY Jeans
8. Guess Jeans
9. Joe's Jeans
10. Rock and Republic Jeans

(aol.com)

musicspotlight



Albums:

- "Graduation" - 2007
- "Late Registration" - 2005
- "College Dropout" - 2004

Background: From 2001 to 2004, "Kanye West went from hip-hop beat maker to world wide hit maker" while doing production work for Jay-Z. Early in his career he focused on production work and writing Rap music. In 2001 he made his official performing debut contributing two songs to Jay-Z's "Blueprint." Due to a nearly fatal car accident, West's debut album, "The College Dropout," didn't release till 2004. Musically, West has only known success. He earned ten Grammy nominations in 2005 and won the award for Best Rap Album, Best Rap Song, and Best R&B Song. West's flamboyant personality also sets him apart. He has spoken out about homophobia in rap music and made anti-George Bush statements. Despite any controversy, he continues to produce hits and gain popularity. (sonicnet.com)

What Parents Should Know:

Kanye's most recent album, "Graduation," contains a parental advisory as it is filled with foul language, drug references, and derogatory lyrics about women. There are references about God that are irreverent and could be very confusing to a teen learning about God.

What Kanye Has To Say:

On his arrogant attitude, West said, "But let someone ask you about what you're doing, and if you turn around and say, 'It's great,' then people are like, 'What's wrong with you?' You want me to be great, but you don't ever want me to say I'm great." Q: Do you think being confident in a talent or ability is bragging? Why or why not? When does confidence step over the line into arrogance? (rollingstone.com)



filmwatch

Be aware and informed of these three movies that are being marketed to your teen this month...

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
The Heartbreak Kid	R	For strong sexual content, crude humor, language, and a scene of drug use involving a minor	Comedy	Ben Stiller, Michelle Monaghan, Jerry Stiller
30 Days of Night	R	For strong horror violence, and language	Horror	Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Danny Huston
Trick 'R Treat	R	For horror violence, some sexuality/nudity, and language	Horror	Anna Paquin, Brian Cox, Dylan Baker

OCTOBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5 pm Supper 5:30 - 7 pm Yard Work Service Project (off-site) 7-8 pm Open Gym and games	4	5	6
7 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room	8	9	10 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Games 6 pm Supper 7-8 pm Jr & Sr Youth split up for Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 12 - 2:30 pm 5/6 Grade Bowling	15	16	17 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Games 6 pm Supper 7-8 pm Jr & Sr Youth split up for Bible Study	18	19	20 9 am - 3 pm Fall Fair - youth fundraising table
21 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room	22	23	24 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Games 6 pm Supper 7-8 pm Jr & Sr Youth split up for Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:45 am K-6th Grade Sunday School 7th-12th Grade packing College Care Kits in gym 5-7 pm Fall Festival for Families (sr youth helping with stations)	29	30	31 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Games 6 pm Supper 7-8 pm Jr & Sr Youth split up for Bible Study			

Upcoming Events ~ More Information

October 3rd Service Project

Note the change in the schedule above!!!

We will be driving to the Burkart's house to help with their yard work so have your children bring a change of clothes if necessary. Also make sure they dress warmly!

Wednesday Night Topics:

Jr High (Various Topics)

10th Excuses

17th Gossip

24th Cliques

31st Halloween

Sr High (Religions of the World)

10th Buddhism

17th Shinto

24th Islam

31st Satanism and the Occult

October 14 - 5/6 Grade Bowling

Time: 12-2:30 pm

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

Your children are ALWAYS encouraged to invite their friends! For off-site events, we do need a completed health form for their friends.