

PG (PARENTAL GUIDANCE)

1. If you had enough money to buy any **three** of the following for your parent or guardian, **which ones would you buy?**

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> more love | <input type="checkbox"/> fewer worries | <input type="checkbox"/> more fun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> more patience | <input type="checkbox"/> better looks | <input type="checkbox"/> more money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> better health | <input type="checkbox"/> more time with me | <input type="checkbox"/> better job |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sense of humor | <input type="checkbox"/> more faith in God | <input type="checkbox"/> more energy |

2. Place an **X** on the line below, indicating which direction you are moving in your relationship with your parents.



Closer to parents

Away from parents

3. If you were one of the adults who are responsible for you—

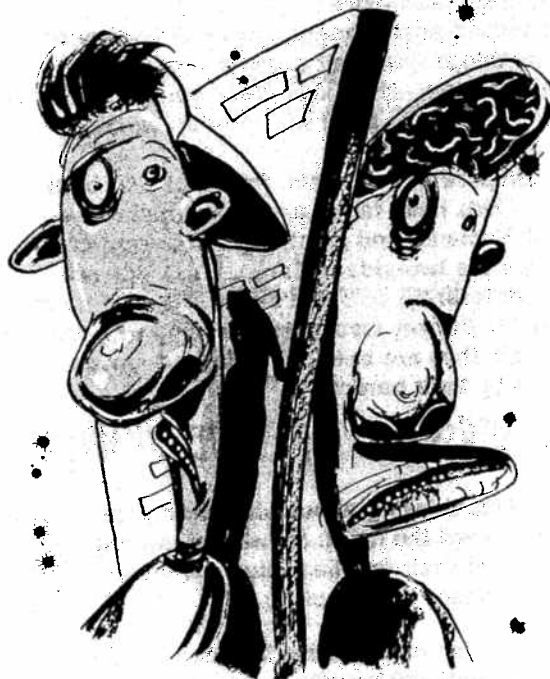
What would you do more?

What would you do less?

4. What do you think—**T** (true) or **F** (false)?

My parents—

- ___ are clueless about my problems.
- ___ fight with each other a lot.
- ___ like to have fun with me.
- ___ don't trust me.
- ___ like my friends.
- ___ won't let me do what my friends do.
- ___ blame me for too much stuff.
- ___ treat me like a child.
- ___ give me as much money as I want.
- ___ pay little attention to my needs.
- ___ expect way too much of me.
- ___ don't care what I do or when.



5. Which of these Bible verses go with the statements below?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Proverbs 3:11-12 | a. Obedience pleases God. |
| 2. Proverbs 20:11 | b. Honor your parents and live long. |
| 3. Ephesians 6:2-3 | c. The Lord disciplines his children. |
| 4. Colossians 3:20-21 | d. Parents protect children. |
| 5. Hebrews 11:23 | e. Actions show the real you. |

PG (PARENTAL GUIDANCE) [p a r e n t s]

THIS WEEK

As the kids in your group get older, they'll grow away from their parents and form their own identities. Most of them probably have started already! This can cause stress and rebellion at home. Parents sometimes come off as old-fashioned and too strict. This TalkSheet will help you discuss parent-teen relationships with your kids in a positive way—and hopefully help them see that parents and guardians are people, too!

Your kids may come from different types of families, including divorced homes, one-parent families, or foster homes. Be extra sensitive to this as you go through this session. Don't assume that all your kids have traditional two-parent homes.

OPENER

On a large sheet of poster board or on a whiteboard, have your kids write down some things that they'd change about their parents or guardians if they could. Jumpstart them if they need ideas—things like "give me more freedom," "don't force me to take piano lessons," and so on. If they don't want to get specific, that's okay.

On a second poster board, have your kids write down some things that their parents would like to change about them—their kids. Keep your kids on track—you might have a kid who writes, "nothing, I'm perfect."

Now compare the two lists. Point out that both parents and kids have faults and make mistakes—they are all humans! And point out that parent-child relationships are two-sided—parents and kids will see things differently, and that's okay. Remind them that respect is the key issue when dealing with parents. After all, they are being fed, clothed, driven, and paid for by their parents!

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. This gets kids thinking about what their parents or guardians need the most. It'll also show you what your kids and their families value the most. Let volunteers share their choices.
2. Allow discussion about where the young people think their relationships with their parents are going. Some kids don't think it's cool to get along with their parents, others do. Maybe tell them a few things about your relationship with your parents (when you were younger, of course). How can they improve their relationships with their parents?
3. Emphasize the positive on this item and encourage them to think of the good things their parents do with them and for them. Don't let this turn into a gripe session.

4. Talk about each of these problem areas and watch for the ones where the most frequent response is *true*. With these, stop and ask the kids how they could change their situation. For instance, how can they earn their parents trust?

5. Read the verses and talk about how your kids can apply these to their home situations. What changes to they themselves need to make? What issues do they need to raise with their parents? What does God say about respecting parents?

THE CLOSE

Encourage your kids to see their parents as people, not just parents. Keep your closing comments upbeat and emphasize that relationships take work, even between parents and kids.

Remind them that God gave us adults to take care of us and they should be thankful—without them they wouldn't be here! Challenge your kids to look at situations from a different angle—from their parents' perspective.

And remind the group that God commands us in Exodus 20:12 to honor and obey our parents, even when they don't feel like it. This command—one of the Ten Commandments—comes with a promise, too. They won't regret loving and honoring our parents.

Finally, close with a prayer for everyone's parents, guardian, or caretaker and give thanks for them. Give the kids a few moments to pray silently for their relationships and struggles with their parents.

MORE

- Give your kids a parent quiz to do over the next week. To answer the questions, they'll have to talk with their parents to find out the answers. A few good questions to include are—How old were your parents when they first started dating? Where did they go on their first date? What were their majors in college? How did they feel when you were born? How did they celebrate their first anniversary?
- How do movies or TV shows deal with parent-teen relationships? You may want to show clips of movies or TV shows and discuss them with the group. What happened between the parent and teenager? How did they both handle the situation? Was it realistic? What would you or your parents have done differently?