



NSA YOUTH Parent Resources and Ideas!

I (Brendan) have had the enormous privilege of serving Christ in youth ministry for the last decade! As I read books on youth ministry, look at surveys, and listen to podcasts there is one theme that I consistently hear: Parents are the absolute number one influence in the life of their children! So how you as parents model your faith to your children will have a real world impact on your teens. And while I don't have teens of my own yet, I do have children and I know that parenting is by far the hardest thing I have done and am doing!

So let's help one another out and keep encouraging one another to parent and disciple our kids with great intentionality! Remember, there is a real spiritual battle taking place. You and your teens have a real enemy that is doing everything in his power to keep us from the life Jesus has offered us! So reach out, band together with other like-minded parents because it really does take a village to raise one child! So let's give it everything we've got!

"Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates."

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (The Message)

Online Resources:

Think back to when you were a teenager! The teenage years have never been easy. But now think to all the ways the world has changed since then for your teenager...! It is a different world in many many ways with many different struggles that we aren't even necessarily aware of! So here are some great websites that help us navigate our teen's world with up to date trends and disciples tools!

axis.org

- Connecting Parent's, Teens & Jesus in a Disconnected World: giving parents and mentors hope by being your guide through culture into conversation around Jesus.
- This one does require a membership but it is really good! \$10/month or \$99/year USD.

cpyu.org

- Helping parents, youth workers, educators, pastors and others understand and reach today's youth culture.
- FAMILY TABLE TALK! Guided conversations for your family during dinner or weekend trip. Check these out!
- https://cpyu.org/resource_category/family-tabletalk/

https://parentcuestore.org

- Be the parent you want to be!
- Tons of resources! It has an app and podcast for parent kids of all ages.

Check out this **book** by Kara Powell and Brad Griffin: "3 Big Questions that Change Every Teenager"

<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/a-new-look-at-todays-teenagers>

<https://tivc-files.s3.amazonaws.com/Parent+Guides+for+Online+Activity.pdf>

- Check out the "**National Online Safety App.**" It's a one-stop-shop for parents and educators to learn everything they need to know about the latest apps, games and devices used by children.

Ideas:

- Read the Bible together (YouVersion Bible App also has great devotionals)
- Memorize Bible verses together
- Watch THE CHOSEN - download the app or YouTube. It's the best show done on Jesus to date!
- After dinner (even once a week), pull out a dessert or chips (extra food keeps teens in the room) and bring ONE BIBLE VERSE and simply discuss it. Maybe tell them how the verse is speaking to you or simply bring one and see where the conversation goes! Get your teens to bring a verse too!
- Serve with your teens! This will go a long way!
- Pick a cause that you are passionate about and support it together as a family!
- Get outside and adventure together!
- Make sure to show them lots of love. Find out their love language and show them love in a personal way that speaks directly to who they are!