

Lesson 11: The Tough Teen Years - You Will Get Through Them

1. *“The light is pleasant, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun.”* (Ecc 11.7) That Hebrew poetry is reminding us to look on the **BRIGHT** side of things. Make this list: 10 Simple Things I Tend to Overlook - For Which I Am Thankful. How does having a “sunny” attitude as a parent help during the trying years of raising teens?
2. “I wish I was a teenager again . . .” Really? Think back to your own teen years and describe some of the difficulties you faced.
3. Suicide is an epidemic among teens. Discuss (1) factors that contribute to the problem, and (2) what we can do to stay connected with them.
4. What three pieces of advice does the wise man give young people in the first part of **Ecclesiastes 11.10**?

THE FATHER KNOWS BEST

5. “Being a Christian takes the fun out of everything . . .” How can we help them know that God is really on their side? See **Deuteronomy 6.24**.

6. **“Remove vexation”** (rebellion), **Ecclesiastes 11.10a**? Discuss (1) the need to watch for signs of rebellion early on and . . . (2) ways we can help curb it.

7. **“Put away pain form your body,”** **Ecclesiastes 11.10b**. It is *your job* as a parent to have serious discussions with your teens (and tweens) about the dangers of drugs, drinking, and sexual promiscuity. Know what’s going on – especially given today’s technology. And know their friends. **“Show me their friends, and I’ll show you their future.”** Do you agree?

8. Do you keep a check on their social network (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) accounts? Given the times, you cannot bury your head in the sand. Know what’s going on.

9. Re-read **Proverbs 1-7**. Better yet, read it together with your teens. This entire section speaks of parental advice that God wants you to give.