

Open Communication¹: Children and teenagers tend to embrace the faith of parents who maintain open communication with them. "Counsel in a man's heart is deep water; but a man of understanding draws it up" (Prov. 20:5)

- Children and teenagers want communication with parents.
 - "Reject the myth that noncommunication is normal for teenagers. You've heard it said over and over: 'Teenagers just don't talk to their parents. You'll have to accept the fact that they calm up and hole up in their rooms.' It may be common for teens to avoid talking to you, but it's not normal. Teenagers long for a caring adult to hear and understand their thoughts, dreams, and ideas."
- Children and teenagers are open to deep communication on for brief times.
 - "There is an interesting phenomenon with children called the open window that is often missed by parents who are too busy. Open windows are moments in time when your children will invite you in to their private world."
 - **When is your children's open window?**
 - **How do you need to prepare for your personal one-on-one time with them?**
 - "The sobering truth is that you can be in the same house, the same gym, but be clueless about what's really going in your child's life."
- Practical Suggestions
 - Listen to them (James 1:19); As they approach adolescence, being to give them opportunities to share their hearts with you (Romans 12:15)
 - Listen to their feelings without immediately giving them the correction you think they need (Prov. 18:13)
 - Be trustworthy with their hearts. None of us is willing to risk sharing vulnerable feelings with someone who will attack us with what we share.
 - Ask how you can help them be more open to you.
 - Share with them weaknesses or struggles you are having in your life.
- To Invite Conversation: **What are some ways you can invite conversation with your teenager?**

¹ Parenting with Kingdom Purpose: Hemphill & Ross, 65-66.