

PARENT UPDATE

coming alongside your family

Woodland Baptist Church

Parent Ministry

Check out the coming events and read the articles. Find more online at woodlandbc.org/youth-parents.

Praying all of this is helpful to you.

Peace & Blessings!

Lance

Hello
Parents!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trafficking Seminar

On 10/11/15 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM

Awareness is the best way to prevent human trafficking. Parents and teens are invited to learn. Register online: woodlandbc.org/trafficking-seminar.

SABA Student Celebration

On 10/18/15 from 5:00PM to 8:40PM

We eat at Woodland at 5:00 pm then head to FBC-UC with lots of other teens to see the inspirational and comedy duo Hurt & Manly. We need some parents to help us drive. See Lance if you are interested.

Lock-In

On 10/30/15 at 9:00PM to 10/31/15 at 8:00AM

Join us at 9:00 pm or right after you game. Take our survey to help us make sure this is the best date: woodlandbc.org/students.

Why Porn Might Bring Down This Generation of Kids

By Jim Burns

Perhaps pornography, more than any other issue of today's culture, has the greatest chance of bringing down the morals and values of this generation. Studies tell us that the greatest new users of pornography are twelve- to seventeen-year-old boys. The girls, however, are catching up. All the while, the pornography industry is reaching into the souls of this generation and wreaking havoc. It is so powerful that it can snatch any kid in any house today.

A few years ago, a thirteen-year-old boy at our church was looking for a new baseball glove online. He innocently typed a keyword into a search engine. But instead of finding baseball gloves, he found pornography sites. His first exposure to porn took him on a journey that caused him to daily, sometimes for hours at a time, look at awful porn. This was a good kid, from a strong family, with high morals, and he just got caught in the maze of porn addiction.

One of the many problems of viewing pornography is that is that your mind takes a picture of the image. And sadly, millions of young people today have very inappropriate images stored in their minds. Pornography is extremely addicting, and for many it can escalate.

Here are the stages of pornography addiction progression:

1. Viewing pornography
2. Addiction
3. Escalation
4. Desensitization
5. Act out sexually

In today's world, kids cannot help but see very unhealthy sexual images. As parents, you can help your kids see the negative consequences of viewing pornography.

Needless to say, pornography is fantasy. Fantasy and pornography are closely related links to sexual addiction. Pornography is a tool for going beyond reality, and, once used, it is difficult to live without. Sadly, sexual addiction is similar to the intensity of alcohol, drug, and gambling addictions. Sexual addiction breaks families apart, causes people to view the opposite sex as objects, and tears at the very moral fiber of really good people.

Almost all teens today have instant access to pornography. As parents, we must be intentional to counter this influence with love, example, and instruction. Otherwise, they may be so enticed by porn that it lures them into a fantasy world full of guilt, shame, and remorse. Pornography is not safe, and we can't assume our kids will never be tempted. Being proactive is the best way to help your kids guard their hearts and minds. As the Scripture says, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

Six Essentials for Making Discipline Work in Your Home

By Jim Burns

When it comes to discipline, kids probably don't know that at times, parents are making it up as they go along. Each child has a different personality, and along with it a unique twist on the discipline issue. But, here's what I tell parents: consistency is key to raising responsible kids. When parents work together toward the same goal, it's much easier to raise responsible kids. Here are six essentials for making discipline work in your home:

1. Rules without relationship equals rebellion. All families have rules but they also need relationship. If most of the communication parents have with their kids is focused on rules, it won't take long for these conversations—and the relationship—to grow cold, allowing rebellion to take root. Parents should make sure there is plenty of relational time to hang out with their kids. True, issues need to be addressed, but timing for when to lay down the rules and when to engage in relationship are key to finding success in discipline.

2. Choose Your Battles Wisely. Not every problem is worth fighting over. If parents find themselves growing more and more agitated when kids act up, chances are that they're trying to fight too many battles. When parents choose to battle an issue, they'd better be right and they'd better win. Parents who don't choose their battles wisely can end up lacking the energy and resources to stay in engaged down the road.

3. Nagging doesn't work. Frankly, nagging is a poor and lazy way to parent. It shuts down intimacy and it sets kids up for future relationship failure. A home filled with negativity and criticism simply breeds rebellion and negativity.

4. Yelling crushes and shuts down your child's spirit. The more parents yell, the less kids listen. Yelling is ineffective. It conveys anger, wounds kids, and creates distance in relationship. All close relationships experience anger, and not all anger is bad. However, how you deal with anger makes all the difference!

5. Don't be afraid to admit your mistakes. Parents aren't perfect, so when you blow it, be quick to admit it. Apologies from parents provide great role modeling to kids about what healthy relationships look like.

6. Clearly Express Your Expectations. When boundaries and consequences are clearly set and understood, much of the emotion is taken out of the process when parents need to apply discipline. And when kids follow their parents' expectations, they feel good about themselves and feel a greater sense of security.

FOMO is Making Teens Terrible Drivers

By HomeWord.com

FOMO (an acronym for fear of missing out) is a popular rallying cry of today's teenagers to maximize life's opportunities, but it may be a tragic if not fatal error when combined with driving.

A recent study from Liberty Mutual Insurance and Students Against Destructive Decisions has found that teens feel pressured to use their smartphones to respond immediately to texts and to frequently peek at notifications from apps.

More than half of teens said they texted while driving, and that the most popular apps they use while driving are: Snapchat (38%), Instagram (20%), Twitter (17%), Facebook (12%), and YouTube (12%).

The researchers fear that teen drivers may be more plugged into their devices than the tasks and attention required for safe driving. If true, FOMO and the "always connected" teen lifestyle can have deadly consequences.

Now What?

- Set clear expectations and consequences with your teenager regarding smartphone use while driving.
- Specifically address how teens should handle phone calls, texts, and app notifications while they are driving.
- Parents should make it their goal to be good role models for their teens in regard to smartphone usage while driving. When a child observes a parent answering calls replying to texts, or checking notifications while driving, they teach dangerous behaviors.
- Practice makes perfect. Your teen's driving skills are improved through supervised driving experience. Even if your teenager already has a driver's license, let her or him drive while running family errands. If necessary, pre-arrange for text messages or calls to be made to your teen driver's smartphone during these trips. This provides your teen with hands-on experience with handling distractions while you are present in the vehicle.