

### **3. Seek Out Older Parents for Wisdom**

There are plenty of parents further along than you that you can learn from. Ask a couple at your church if you can ask them for advice. Learn from the good and bad of their experiences.

*“Get all the advice and instruction you can, and you will be wise the rest of your life.” - Proverbs 19:20*

### **4. Do More Listening; Less Talking**

Ouch! I know that one hurts, but it’s true. Two things happen when you listen more. One, it gives your teenager a chance to process their thoughts out loud. Two, it gives the Holy Spirit a chance to do His job.

*“My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” - James 1:19*

### **5. Be Ready to Speak Wisdom and Truth**

If you are listening, God will tell you when to speak. Be looking for those teachable moments when your teen is ready and able to hear. Use this as an opportunity to point them toward God’s truth.

*“To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom.”  
- Mark 1:35*

### **6. Choose Your Battles Wisely**

If you make every argument into a battle of who is right, you will soon have a war on your hands. Be willing to say “yes” in areas of personal preference and “no” where God has given clear boundaries.

*“Gentle words bring life and health...” - Proverbs 15:4*

### **7. Develop a Sense of Humor**

You already know that parenting is hard work. It is more enjoyable when you can learn to laugh at yourself. When your teen sees your flaws it helps them to see you as a real person who might understand that they are going to make mistakes too.

*“Pride ends in humiliation while humility brings honor.”  
- Proverb 29:23*

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