

Teen Topics

Understanding Our Parents (Conclusion)

Our study has focused on the responsibilities parents and teens have toward each other, as well as ways the relationship we have with our parents can be strengthened. The purpose of this study was to help us understand our parents better so that we can better relate to them and appreciate what they do. Here are a few final thoughts as we conclude.

Understanding Our Heavenly Father's Love

We cannot have a study on parents without mentioning God's own self-description as a "Father." The parent-child relationship is intended to be very meaningful and impactful, and it is on this level that God Himself desires to connect with us. There are several truths in Scripture on this topic that can be cherished, especially by those who may have experienced any type of mistreatment or abuse from a parent. We have a Heavenly Father who promises to comfort us (Is. 66:13), to bring emotional healing (Ps. 147:3), to care for us (I Pet. 5:7), and to never leave or forsake us (Deut. 31:8). Each of these qualities of our Heavenly Father gives us an example of how we can love our own children one day.

Where to Go from Here

Do your part in making the relationship the best it can be:

- > **Admit** your own failures. When you are responsible for family issues, admit to it and be willing to apologize.
- > Take steps to **change**. Consider what needs to be done to improve the relationship with your parents, and do it!
- > **Work toward harmony**. Do not make the mistake of waiting to fix relationship issues later in life. Do it now!

Being able to understand our parents may not always be an easy thing to do. But if we commit to living our lives in the home as God has directed us, we can be assured that our actions will honor Him and that His blessing will be upon us!

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