



# Getting along with parents

One of the biggest challenges for Christian teens is their relationship with their parents. Mom and Dad have one idea about how you are supposed to act and follow the rules, but you want to grow up and start making your own decisions. Many Christian teens find that they want to follow the commandment to "honor thy father and mother," but the actual practice is more difficult and complicated. So, what are some things you can do to develop a Godly relationship with your parents?

## Spend Time Together

Many Christian teens groan when it comes to spending time with their parents, because they just don't feel that their parents understand them very well. Maybe it is time for you to plan family night. Try cooking your parents dinner or picking out a game for the entire family to play. You may even want to create a night when you all pray or do a devotional together. While you don't have to spend all your time with your parents, spending some time with them allows you to get to know one another better.

## Talk to Your Mom and Dad

Another difficulty for Christian teens is opening up to their parents about what is going on in their lives. Yet, when you talk to your parents about some of the things that are going on in your life it allows them to see how you are growing up and becoming more responsible. It also helps them feel more connected to you because they feel involved.

## Show You Care

Showing affection is not easy for every family. Some Christian teens grow up in households where everyone is hugging and kissing or telling each other, "I love you," while others are not very "touchy-feely." However, you can show you care about your mom and dad in your own way by at least being polite, caring, and thoughtful.

## Be Fair

When you are trying to get along with your mom and dad it can be hard for you to keep your cool when you aren't getting your way. Sometimes the best way to get along with your parents is to make compromises. Try to put yourself in your parents' shoes. Then come up with a solution that will fit what your parents need from you and what you need.

## Keep Your Cool

Many Christian teens end up having "temper tantrums" when they try to have a conversation with their parents. Arguments usually come from a lack of understanding. Next time you talk to your parents, try to ask them questions to understand where they are coming from and remember to share what you are thinking so they can understand you.

## Take Your Disappointments Elsewhere

Frustration with your parents is normal. One great outlet Christian teens have is prayer. God is always willing to listen. You can pray for a better relationship with your parents or for God to place an understanding on their hearts. You can also journal or express your frustration to friends, leaders, and pastors. Sometimes those close to you can help you brainstorm ways to develop a Godly relationship with your parents.

## Remember...They are the Parents

No matter how responsible and grown up you think you are, your parents are still the heads of your household. They are your authority. Even if you don't agree with their rules the Bible still says you are to follow those rules. Whether you look at Romans where the Bible focuses on following authority or just Exodus 20:12 where God commands us to honor our parents, your parents' rules still stand.



## RELATED SCRIPTURE

The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother (Proverbs 10:1).

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching (Proverbs 1:8).

Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12).

you how to "cram God" into your already-full schedule. Instead, Doug will show you a practical, doable way of setting God first, and then letting everything else in your life fall into place. You will experience the fullness God has for you-just take some time to refuel.



## RELATED RESOURCES



### Wisdom On...Getting Along with Parents

Mark Matlock

ISBN 978-0310279297

#### *Wisdom On...Getting Along with Parents*

can help you understand both sides a little better and improve your relationship. This book is about giving you insight and understanding into the dynamics of your relationship with your parents, and helping you learn to use wisdom when you interact with them. You'll walk away from this book with a whole new perspective on the relationship you have with your parents, and how to have an even better one.



### Refuel: An Uncomplicated Guide to Connecting with God

Doug Fields

ISBN 978-0849920547

If you've always struggled with the stereotypical quiet-time, don't give up hope! As a Christian, you know you need to have devotions. You've heard it from your pastor; you've seen the study guides; you may have even made a dent in the One Year Bible. Some of you have valiantly set your alarm clocks back an hour for morning quiet time, only to find that life creeps back in to steal your resolve. It isn't because you don't love God. You quit because you "bought into" someone's unsustainable habit at an unreasonable pace. But you don't have to keep running on empty. Bestselling author Doug Fields offers an uncomplicated, practical plan that you can carry out. This book won't teach

### Student Ministry at Long Hollow

You can find more information about the middle school ministry at [longhollow.com/middleschool](http://longhollow.com/middleschool) and the high school ministry at [longhollow.com/highschool](http://longhollow.com/highschool).

### Hendersonville Campus

#### Small Groups

Middle School

Sundays at 10:00 am at Beech High School Annex

High School

Sundays at 10:00 am at Beech High School

#### Wednesday Nights

The Current for middle school at 6:15 pm (the Chapel)  
River's Edge for high school at 7:15 pm (the Chapel)

### Gallatin Campus

#### Small Groups

Middle School

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Student Center

High School

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Student Center

#### Wednesday Nights

River's Edge for all students at 6:00 pm (Student Center)

### White House Campus

#### Small Groups

Middle School

Sundays at 9:00 am in the Band Room

High School

Sundays at 9:00 am in the Band Room

#### Wednesday Nights

River's Edge for all students at 6:30 pm (White House High School Annex)