

"Parenting Adolescents: Responding to a New Season"

Jeremiah 6:16a

David Misson



Background

Parents of adolescents and adolescents themselves share at least one thing in common. The realization that something has drastically changed. Three questions will guide us on Sunday. What has changed, how might parents respond, and who will be there along the way? Join us this Sunday as we continue our August Series, "Church as Family"!

Sermon Text *Jeremiah 6:16a*

*¹⁶ This is what the Lord says:
"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.*

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. **Navigating the "San Francisco" Transition:** Moving from the wide, predictable lanes of Highway 280 to the chaotic streets of San Francisco illustrates the shift from parenting young children to guiding adolescents. Which of the three foundational attitudes—humility, courage, or hope—do you find most challenging to practice in your current season, and why?
2. **Becoming a "Transforming Parent":** Pastor David emphasizes that teenagers do not need expert parents, but rather "transforming parents" who are open about their own growth. Considering Jon Tyson's framework of Exhortation, Encouragement, and Comfort, which posture comes most naturally to you, and where might an imbalance be creating unintended passivity, harshness, or pressure in your home?
3. **Guiding Through Digital Landscapes:** The sermon compares handing a teenager an unmonitored smartphone to handing them car keys without driving lessons. How can parents courageously hold firm digital boundaries while simultaneously offering teens greater freedom to navigate real-world, "analog" risks and potential failures?
4. **Stepping Off the Performance Treadmill:** Many teenagers fear their parents' reactions when they mess up, worrying that relationship and approval are tied to performance. What is one practical step you can take to "step off the treadmill" and signal to your teenager that you love and genuinely enjoy them, independent of their achievements or mistakes?
5. **Cultivating "Church as Family":** Overcoming parental isolation requires moving past quick fixes or judgment toward deep, shared community. In what ways can both parents and non-parenting church members—such as empty nesters or singles—actively build intergenerational relationships to ensure teenagers and parents know they are not alone?