

Covid-19 Care Package

Week Two

Teenagers are spending vast amounts of time at home with their cell phones and gaming systems. To support your increased role as a tech gatekeeper, here are two resources.

The first is a **Contract Pack** that serves as communication tools to set teenagers and parents up for success. It also includes a *Parent's Guide* to explain the trust economy.

The contracts come with text and blank templates in case you want to personalize the contract. Topics include cell phones, video games, technology, and being home alone. If you're looking for a way to have open communication with your teens about what they want, this is a great starting point!

DOWNLOAD THE CONTRACT PACK HERE:

<https://ministrytoparents.com/youth/files/annual/toolbox/youth-contract-pack.zip>

Second, I want to inspire parents to think about activities they can do with their teenagers. Not just any activity, but activities that help **Prepare Your Teenager for Life** through life skills like how to manage money, sew a button or change a tire.

This mission can seem simple, but when we break down into every day, the process can feel complicated or overwhelming.

Imagine everyone, including you, has a tool belt for life. When you were young, your parents or parental figures in your life put a "tool" in your tool belt to show you how to live life.

For example:

How do you manage money?

How do you learn how to date?

How do you forgive?

How do you cook?

How do you navigate emotions?

What's important about marriage?

What are some good study habits?

How do you change a tire on a car?

There are so many things about life we need to know, and it helps us when somebody equips us for the road. One way to prepare your teenager for the road of life is to think about *your* tool belt before you think about what to put in your teenager's.

As you take a personal assessment of what is in your life tool belt, please know there is no perfect parent. EVERY ONE of us will have empty pockets. Some of us had parents who filled pocket after pocket of "life tools," while others received very minimal. Either way, our parental figures or parents were only able to pass down what they were given, and whatever that is not within our control.

What is within our control is the freedom to go out and pursue our own life tools. As adults, we don't have to wait for someone to equip us for life, we have the personal freedom to go get it for ourselves.

So, your step is brave yet straightforward. We can accept responsibility for taking inventory of the life tools we have. Figure out what more we want, then plan how to get it.

For example, let's say you didn't learn how to manage money. That's okay, so many parents didn't receive that tool. Where can you find wisdom and practical tips? Is there someone you admire who seems to manage their

money wisely, not extravagantly, but wisely? Can you seek out Biblical advice from a mentor? A financial advisor? A legitimate, authorized company online?

This step requires intentionality, but it is worth it. Imagine your teenager at 35, looking at his or her teenager passing down what they were given. Can you imagine what it would look like if they have just a few more tools than you did?

Please keep it simple and start with one or two items. Because it is not possible to fill an entire tool belt, take your time evaluating. Ask the Lord for help. Once you identify a “life tool” you want, begin to look for a trusted and vetted friend, mentor, life coach, church member, teacher, website, or counselor for suggestions on where to start. Remember...start small...what is one life tool you want to add to your tool belt? Go get it! I’m cheering for you Parents.

Also, if you are looking for something fun to do as well, don’t miss the newest resource added to the Student Parenting at Home page titled: **20 Family Activities to Do at Home**. Find that resource and so much more at www.harborsidechurch.org/student-parenting.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact me, and I will be glad to help in any way.

Blessed to serve,

Stephen Law

Student Pastor



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