

# PARENTING

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LAUNCHING YOUNG ADULTS

**HOME FIRST**

PARENTING POINTER

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After years of saying, “When I grow up, I’m gonna be...” there comes a point at which your children start going through the steps of actually making it happen. Dr. James Dobson calls ages 16 to 26 the “critical decade” as young people transition from childhood to adulthood. We’ve all heard the phrase “failure to launch” describing young men and women who don’t make that transition for one reason or another. How can you be intentional about successfully launching your older children?

## BE A GOOD COACH

As the parent of a teen on the verge of adulthood, you are in the prime of the coaching years. You can motivate, encourage, challenge and advise, but you can’t force feed. You can help your son or daughter articulate what they believe, challenge their thinking, remind them of the “basics” they learned during their earlier years, but the time has come for them to truly own their beliefs. Through that process, you can provide a safe environment to wrestle with and even question the values they learned as children. The key to your influence at this point is in maintaining a strong relationship and frequent, open dialogue.

## GIVE PERSPECTIVE AMID BIG QUESTIONS

Making the transition into adulthood, your son or daughter will face big questions like: What kind of work should I do? Where should I live? What should I do with my life? The most important thing you can do during this season is to listen, encourage, share your experiences (your older children may not realize that you faced the same questions not too long ago!), and direct them back to overarching biblical principles.

1 Chronicles 28:9 provides a model for parents advising emerging adults: “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”

In the midst of the practical advice parents may offer on setting goals, choosing a job, finding a spouse and so forth, we must also elevate God’s principles such as...

- Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain (Psalm 127:1)
- Lose your life to find it (Luke 9:23-24)
- Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)



## SUPPORT IN THEIR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

The biggest thing you can be for your young adult is their advocate and cheerleader. Don’t take the game away, but cheer for them as they start their own journey.

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

In *Adulthood*, a 6-part series on RightNow Media, Jonathan Pokluda speaks to young adults on the art of “adulthood” for Christ. He’ll walk through how to discern God’s will for your life right now and specify how you can best glorify Him through your career, relationships, and commitments. To connect with a couple who has gone through the study, contact Pastor Ivy Lassiter: [ILassiter@FBRichardson.org](mailto:ILassiter@FBRichardson.org).

*Start* (by Jon Acuff) explores the idea that there are only two paths in life: average and awesome. The average path is easy. All you have to do is nothing. The awesome path is more challenging because things like fear only bother you when you do work that matters. The good news is *Start* gives readers practical, honest, actionable insights to be more awesome, more often. It’s time to punch fear in the face, escape average, and do what that matters. It’s time to START.

*Welcome to Adulthood: Navigating Faith, Friendship & The Future* by Jonathan “JP” Pokluda addresses how every day, another Millennial becomes an adult. For many young people, the transition is a bumpy one, fraught with opportunities to make mistakes and bad choices. The clear expectations they had at home or in school are gone, and they may feel unprepared to face what comes next. But sometimes we make it harder than it has to be. Combining entertaining stories from his own experience, insights from the Bible, and compelling evidence from research, JP lays out a roadmap for how to navigate life as an adult.



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