**Impacting Teenagers**

**Women’s Ministries Seminar**

**HANDOUT 1**

**Comparison of Childhood Faith and Mature Adult Faith**

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| **Childhood Faith** | **Mature Adult Faith** |
| Good Christians don’t have pain or disappointment. | God uses our pain and disappointment to make us better Christians. |
| God helps those who help themselves. | God helps those who admit their own helplessness. |
| God wants to make us happy. | God wants to make us into the image of Jesus. |
| Faith will help us always explain what God is doing (things always work out). | Faith helps us stand under God’s sovereignty even when we have no idea what God is doing. |
| The closer we get to God, the more perfect we become. | The closer we get to God, the more we become aware of our own sinfulness. |
| Mature Christians have answers. | Mature Christians can wrestle honestly with tough questions because we trust that God has the answers. |
| Good Christians are always strong. | Our strength is in admitting our weakness. |
| We go to church because our friends are there, we have great leaders, and we get something out of it. | We go to church because we belong to the body of Christ. |

Mark DeVries, *Family-Based Youth Ministry*, p.26

**HANDOUT 2**

**What are the needs of today’s teens?**

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**HANDOUT 3**

**Principles for Choosing a Profession**

1. It must be something you genuinely like to do. This choice requires you to identify your own strengths, weaknesses, and interests. (You may be able to obtain published interest tests.)

2. It must be something you have the ability to do. Which are your best school subjects? What are you good at?

3. It must be something you can earn a living by doing. Before someone buys your paintings, you could starve while sitting at your easel.

4. Can you obtain the needed training? Do you have the finances and grades necessary?

5. It must be something that brings affirmation.

6. Most importantly for the Christian, it must be something that you feel God approves of.

―Modified from Dr. James Dobson, in *Life on the Edge,* p. 11

**HANDOUT 4**

**Differences between Love and Sex in a Relationship**

LOVE is a process to be experienced in order to understand it.

SEX is a performance you have some clue about before experiencing it.

LOVE is learned by having been loved and cared for by someone else.

SEX is figured out by instinct.

LOVE requires constant attention.

SEX requires little effort.

LOVE takes time to develop.

SEX develops with just an urge.

LOVE is deepened by creative thinking.

SEX is controlled through feelings or response to stimuli.

LOVE is behavioral changes that bring about good feelings.

SEX is one big feeling brought about by one big behavior.

LOVE is an act of the will with or without good feelings.

SEX is also an act of the will, but you feel like doing it.

LOVE involves respect of the other person in order to develop.

SEX does not require the respect of the person.

LOVE is lots of warm fuzzies and genuine laughter.

SEX is an intense struggle with little or no laughter.

LOVE requires knowing how to interact and converse thoughtfully.

SEX requires little talking—mostly an urge.

LOVE develops in depth to sustain the relationship from which happiness is found.

SEX promises a permanent relationship that seldom happens.

―Norman Wright, *Guidebook to Dating*, pp. 145, 146

**HANDOUT 5**

**How to Know God’s Will**

FIRST - Talk to another person about the decision to be made: discuss it with someone in whom you have confidence and with whom you can share your ideas.

SECOND - Read the Bible for direction. God will talk to you through His Scripture, and He will never ask you to do anything that contradicts His Word.

THIRD - Watch to see which doors open and which slam shut. If God is leading you in a particular direction, He’ll work through what we call “providential circumstances.” He will create opportunities for you to do what He wants. You won’t have to “hammer down” the obstacles if God is involved.

FOURTH - Give yourself plenty of time to think. Don’t make any big decisions while you’re in a state of confusion. That’s a good principle to follow throughout your life. When you’re not sure what to do, avoid the final choice for as long as possible. You might have much greater confidence a few days later.

FIFTH - Pray for God’s guidance and blessing and leading.

―Dr. James Dobson

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