

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next—Through Strong Heart Connections

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October 25-27, 2009

God's Plans for You—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first): Say: **Thanksgiving is only a month away, which means we'll be in the Christmas season again before we know it. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 representing the best Christmas I've experienced, I would rate my hopes for our upcoming Christmas celebration as a _____. I say this because . . .**

2. Read Scripture: Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Jeremiah 29:11. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of this verse.

Truth

- God has a plan for my life that includes hope and blessings.

Untruths

- God doesn't care about me or have a plan for me.
- The most important plan for my life is the one I develop for myself.
- I don't need God's blessings. I will bless myself.

3. Explore Scripture: Read aloud the Scripture passage. Point out that Jeremiah wrote this message to the people of his day because they were going through very difficult times and had very little reason to celebrate. Say: **Jeremiah's message was based on his trust in God, which helped him encourage the people to have courage, faith, and hope for their future.** Ask: **How do you usually deal with hard times?** Emphasize that today's verse encourages us to have hope, faith, and a future with God. Say: **To enjoy hope and a future, you must trust God and His ability to deliver on His promises.**

4. Think It Through: A teenager will lead this step.

5. Nail It Down: Ask: **What would you think if I told you that I believe in the security of banks, but didn't have a single dime in a bank because I was afraid my money would be stolen?** Discuss the lack of consistency between words and actions and how that reveals a lack of trust. Point out that Jeremiah had faith in God to act on behalf of His people. Ask: **Do you have faith in God to implement plans that will bless his people?** Say: **Each day, let Him know about your hopes and your willingness to trust Him.**

6. Pray: A teenager will lead this step.

7. Blessing: Say: **May God bless you for trusting His plans and promises for you.**

Parent Tip: God doesn't just give us purpose and a plan for our lives. He gives us the abilities and tools to make that plan a reality for His glory. Spend some time this week talking with your teenagers about their spiritual gifts. Encourage them to identify ways they can find a place of service in the local church and in your community for God's glory.