

# HEART CONNEX

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

## PARENTS PAGE

**November 8-10, 2009**

*God's Purpose for the Family—Richard Ross, Ph.D.*

**1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first):** Say: **Sometimes teenagers receive trophies or other awards to recognize accomplishments. Right now I'm thinking about an area of your life that deserves recognition. In my mind, you deserve an award for the way you . . .**

**2. Read Scripture:** Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Philippians 3:8-10 and Matthew 28:18-20. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

### **Truth**

- God's highest purpose for families is to know Him and to make Him known.

### **Untruths**

- The highest purpose for families is to be happy.
- The highest purpose for families is to get as much stuff as possible.
- The highest purpose for families is to produce kids the world sees as successful.

**3. Explore Scripture:** Read aloud Philippians 3:8-10. Explain that the Greek wording for verse 8 emphasizes the excellence or value that comes from knowing Christ. Say: **Paul realized that Jesus is awesome and beyond all our understanding, but he also knew that He longs to have an intimate relationship with His children that surpasses anything we could imagine.** Discuss how this kind of relationship with Christ could influence a family and help that family determine its "mission" in life.

**4. Think It Through:** Say: **Suggest some ways a person can learn about marriage.** (*Possible answers: Read about it, talk with married people, watch married people, and so forth*) Ask: **Which do you think teaches you more about marriage: learning thousands of pieces of information about marriage or experiencing the ups and downs that come from actually being married?** Discuss responses. Emphasize that experience tends to be the best teacher, especially when it comes to learning how to relate to your spouse and how to make a marriage relationship work. Ask: **How would you compare people who know about God with those who actually know Him and are experiencing a warm, intimate relationship with Him?**

**5. Nail It Down:** A teenager will lead this activity.

**6. Pray:** A teenager will lead the prayer.

**7. Blessing:** Say: **I bless this family as a family that wants to know God better and works to help others know Him as well.**

**Parent Tip:** The average adult watches more than two-and-a-half hours of television each day. If parents watched only an hour of television an evening, about 90 minutes would be freed for other things, like family worship, supervising homework projects, crafting wise discipline, and listening to the hearts of teens.