

# HEART CONNEX

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

## PARENTS PAGE

**November 15-18, 2006**

*God's Direction or Parental Expectation?—Richard Ross, Ph.D.*

**1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first):** Say: **If you were to die next week and I were required to choose the epitaph for your tombstone, I think I would have it say . . .**

**2. Read Scripture:** Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Genesis 22:1-2, 10-12. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

### **Truth**

- Parents who trust Christ assist their children in finding God's unique callings on their lives.

### **Untruths**

- Teenagers should make their parents happy by always following in the vocational footsteps of those parents.
- Teenagers should give their parents something to brag about by always going into high-class vocations.
- Teenagers should bring more money into the family by always choosing vocations that offer top pay.

**3. Explore Scripture:** Read aloud Genesis 17:3-6,15-16. Say: **By the time Isaac became a teenager, Abraham must have assumed Isaac would live a full life and would father the nation of Israel.** Now read aloud Genesis 22:2. Say: **Rather than depending on his own assumptions, Abraham chose to depend on God's instructions and plans for his son. I also want to listen for God's plans for my child.**

**4. Think It Through:** Walk behind your teenager and place both hands on his or her shoulders. Repeat the following lines. If two parents are in the home, they should say these words together:

- **I/We declare that you belong to God Almighty.**
- **I/We hereby release you from any pressure to follow in our vocational footsteps so you can do what God calls you to do.**
- **I/We acknowledge that God may call you to a vocation that does not bring financial wealth or worldly prestige.**
- **The greatest parental pride I/we will feel will come from watching you do what God has called you to do.**

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

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

**7. Blessing:** Say: **I bless this family as a family where every member is assisting the others to know and do the perfect will of God.**

**Parent Tip:** Middle school students who spend time home alone after school are at special risk. In fact, they are at a higher risk than older students who stay home alone. The presence of a parent after school not only fills emotional tanks, but it also can save the lives of children.