

“Work for the Better”

A lesson for parents and teenagers.

Family problems are nothing new. All the way back with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we see some serious family problems. And while these men of faith were amazing (at times) in their walk with God, they were a long way off (usually) from God’s vision for a “healthy” family. We can learn from their mistakes...

On January 22, 2008, we gathered together over 50 high school students and their parents to answer the following three questions. There was only ONE RULE: this is for you to listen – not to attack. This is not a list to throw in the other person’s face – this is a list to help you listen, and understand – and then chose for yourself what you will do to work for the better of your family.

Student answers are in blue.

Parent answers are in green.

**Answers were given by multiple groups.*

1. What do you like about me?

You care enough to discipline me.

**You listen and trust me.

*You raise me with my best interest in mind.

You teach me needed skills.

**You provide for me.

*You protect me.

*You love me.

*You are on my side.

Good example and role models.

Encouragement.

Hospitality & Compassion.

You are feisty – I like your personality.

*Your heart.

*Your humor.

*You are honest.

*You are giving and care about others.

Bubbly personality.

Tender heart.

You are loyal.

Trustworthy.

*Self-motivated hard worker.

2. What is something I do that bothers you?

You jump to conclusions and you yell.

Tease and embarrass me.

Don’t understand me.

Say one thing, do another.

Keep secrets.

Work too much.

Impatience with me.

**Favoritism.

*Freak out over little things.

Point out my flaws.

Overprotective.

**Never admit when you are wrong.

Don’t trust my friends.

*Assume you know what happened.

*Bad attitude.

*Procrastination.

Don’t listen when corrected.

Don’t open up and communicate.

Critical.

Ignore us as parents.

Negative body language.

Mean.

3. What is something extra I could do to make your life better?

See it from my side.

Understand me more....

*Listen to my opinions.

Let me grow up.

*Spend time getting to know me and help me.

*Let me know when you are proud of me.

Support me.

Help me when I am stressed instead of making it worse.

Give me a positive response.

**Take the initiative.

Do things without being asked.

Act like you like us.

Pray for the family.

Don’t expect me to jump up immediately.