

Theme: Older Children and young adults should experience a greater measure of freedom, which they are to use to draw close to God, solidify the lessons learned in their early years, and prepare to serve God throughout life.

## I. Intro – Series Purpose

- A. Focal point for 2005
- B. Series on seasons of life – agricultural metaphor
- C. Goal - main purpose of each phase to entire cycle
- D. Last time – young children – discipline & instruction
- E. Today – older children/young adults

## II. Early Summer: Older Children & Young Adults

- A. Roughly 10 – 20+ years (1 Cor 13:11)
  - 1. Maturing in every area, but still not self-sufficient adults
  - 2. Transitional time – solidifying past; preparing for future
- B. No longer young children – not still plowing!
  - 1. They are developing self-control, reason, etc.
  - 2. They can not be treated like young children
  - 3. Our methods of discipline and instruction shift
    - a. Less rod, more of other types – tailor to child
    - b. Change in devotions – more on own; harder

## 4. Danger of not transitioning

- a. Minimum – hinder their maturity
- b. Maximum - rebellion may arise

## C. Not yet adults – not ready for harvest time!

- 1. They have not yet fully matured – still need parents
- 2. They can not be immediately treated as adults
- 3. We must transition
  - a. Gradual growth of responsibilities
  - b. Gradual granting of privileges

## III. The Purpose of This Phase: Growth

- A. Growth in freedom (Galatians 4:1-2; 5:1, 13)
  - 1. They are preparing for time of adulthood
  - 2. They are given increasing freedoms
  - 3. True freedom – ability to do things listed next!
- B. Growth in walk with God (Eccl 12:1)
  - 1. They must develop their own walk with God
  - 2. They learn to trust God on own (Prov 3:5-6)
  - 3. They need to have quiet times on own

4. They should desire to know and worship God
- C. Growth in honoring parents (Exodus 20:12)
1. This command never ends!
  2. Honoring is now more intelligent and willing
  3. Relationship is changing – but still honor
- D. Growth in personal responsibility & self-control (Tit 2:6-8; 1 Tim 4:12)
1. They should take more responsibility at home
  2. Includes homework, chores, following rules
  3. Should grow in self-control – not rebellion/foolishness
- E. Growth in service to others (Gal 5:13)
1. They should serve at home – esp with younger sibs
  2. Can serve at church and other places

#### **IV. Conclusion & Summary**

- A. Parents – is this how you are training?
1. Are you transitioning them to adulthood?
  2. Are you helping them grow in these areas?
  3. Are you setting an example in these areas?
- B. Teens and 20's – how are you doing?
1. Are you growing in these areas – or just demanding freedom?

2. How is your walk with God? – QT, excited, worship?
3. Are you growing in godly character – or worldliness?

#### C. Communion – how are we doing?

### Early Summer: Older Children and Young Adults

1 Corinthians 13:11

June 5, 2005

Communion

Numbers 6

## Strengthening the Family

We will strive to provide instruction on the family and our place within it

- ✓ We will strive to provide instruction on every phase of life, from childhood through the elderly years, to help us understand how to better serve God at each stage

1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father... 1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.... 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 4:1-2, 5:1, 13

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12

<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup> and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:6-8

<sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13