

COURSE 6

2014

BIBLICAL COUNSELLING TO CHILDREN AND THEIR PRIMARY CAREGIVERS



Presenter: Vorster Combrink

Learning Area 4

8 November 2014

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Four Learning Areas

1. **Pregnancy - 3 years (embrional, baby & toddler phases)**
2. **3-7 Years (infancy & early childhood phases)**
3. **7-12 years (childhood & puberty phases)**
4. **12 – 18 years (teenage/adolescense)**



Note: Phases overlap

Learning Area 4

8 November 2014

Goal of presentation:

1. Equipping counsellors to counsel teenagers
2. Equipping counsellors to empower primary caregivers to parent (& counsel) their teenagers

Resources Compulsory

- **The Bible**
- **ABBO Course 1,2 & 3**
- **Baucham, V.** 2007. Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters who Walk with God. Wheaton: Crossway. ISBN-13: 978-1-4335-2812-5. **216 p**
- **Tripp, P.D.** 2009. Getting to the Heart of Parenting. DVD. CDR Communication. Session 9 &10 (Augustine)
- **Tripp, P.D.** 2001. Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens. Phillipsburg: P&R. ISBN-13: 978-0-87552-605-8 (Augustine). **253 p**
- **Tripp, T.** 2005 2nd edition. Shepherding a Child's Heart. Wapwallopen: Shepherd Press. ISBN 0-9663786-0-1 Chapter 18 & 19. **28 p**

Resources Optional

- **Collins, G.R.** 2007. Christian Counselling: A Comprehensive Guide. 3rd ed. Nashville : Nelson. ISBN-10: 1-4185-0329-0. Chapter 14.
- **Gouws, E., Kruger, N. & Burger, S.** 2000. The Adolescent. Sandown: Heineman Publishers. ISBN 1-86853-852-4
- **Priolo, L.** Getting Grip: The Heart of Anger. Handbook for Teens. Calvary
- **Seale, R.** 2007. A tot Z van ouerskap: Net wat jy nodig het om jou tiener suksesvol groot te maak. Vanderbijlpark: Carpe Diem Media. ISBN 978-1-920156-29-9
- **Smith, J.** 2008. Hoe om jou lewe te verwoes voor jy 16 is. Vereeniging: CUM ISBN 978-1-77000-670-6.

Terminology: 12 – 18 Year Olds

Grouping:

2-3:	Toddler	Peuter
4-5:	Infant	Kleuter
6-8:	Infant / Child (junior)	Kind
9-12:	Child (middle/puberty)	Kind/Puber
12-18:	Child (senior)	Kind/Tiener/ Teenager/Adolescent

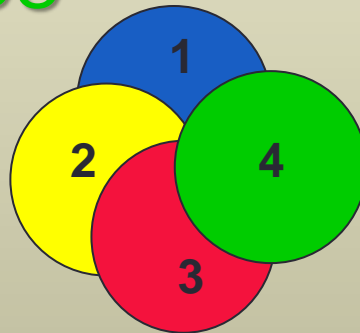


Notes:

- Each child is unique
- Individualize, don't generalize

A Biblical Method of Counselling Teens (12-18 Year Olds)

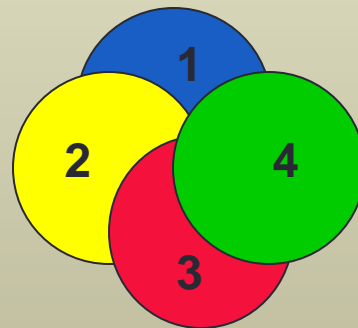
1. **Build a Relationship : LOVE**
2. **Understand: KNOW**
3. **Confront: SPEAK**
4. **Activate: DO**



PHASES OVERLAP

Counselling 12-18 Year Olds Through Play (Structured and Unstructured)

1. Play can build a trusting relationship
2. Play can facilitate disclosure/assessment/understanding
3. Through play a child can be helped to order/change his inner world (heart) and behavior
4. Play can help child to put change in practice



Counsellor can teach parent to use play as a parenting tool

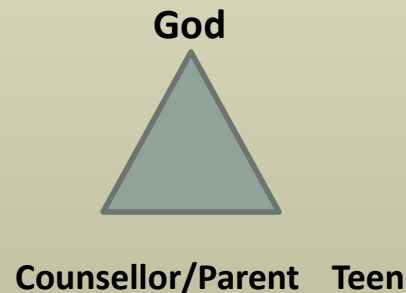


Building a Relationship With Teenager

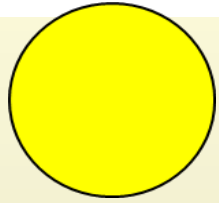
See the Presentation of Learning Area 2

- Enter his world
- Incarnate God's love to him
- Identify with him
- Accept him with agenda

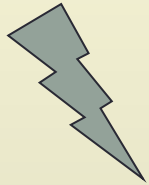
Communicate through play & words



Tripp, 2002:115-159



Understanding Teenagers



Situation



External: Past, present & future
Internal: Body



Treasure:



Control of the heart



Structure:



Thoughts, desires, motives, goals



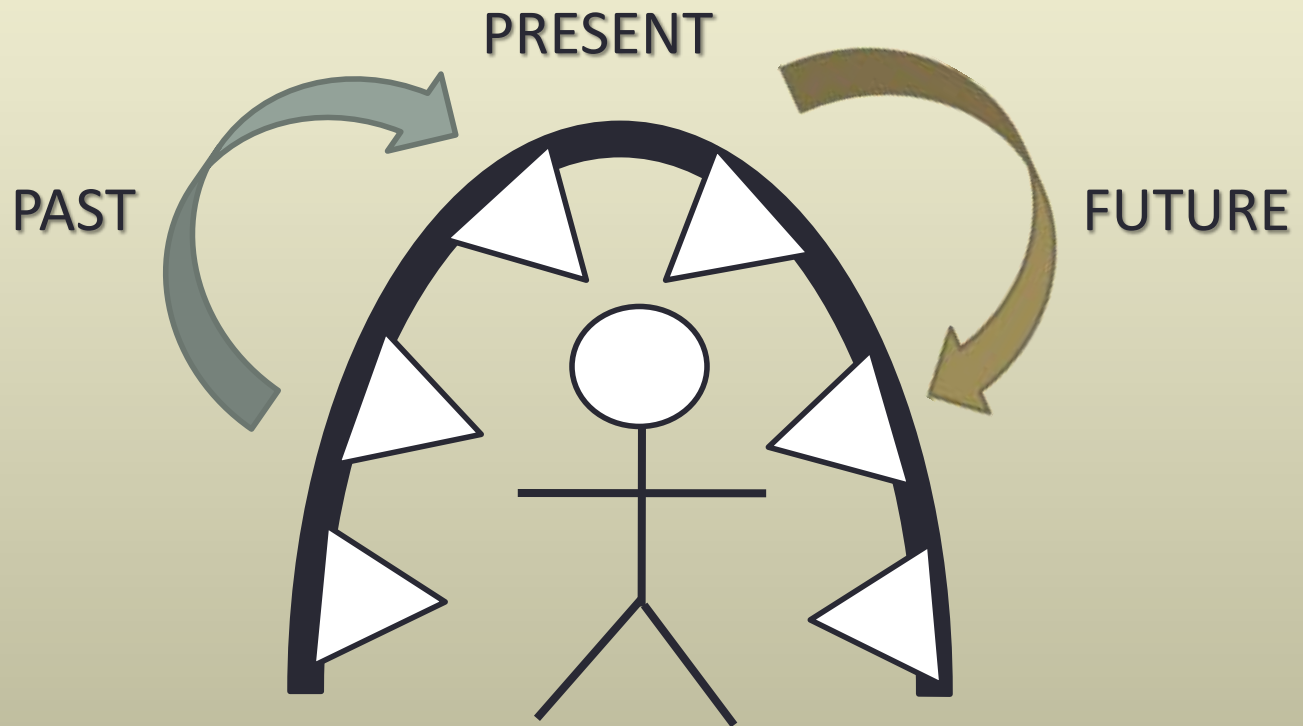
Strategy:



Reaction to the situation
Behavior, habits, patterns

UNDERSTAND THROUGH PLAY AND WORDS

Understanding Teen's Situation



Parents: Teen's Most Important Influence

See Learning Area 3

- God charged parents with the responsibility to steward their kids
- Parents should make sure that no other influence takes precedence
- Most parents abdicate their parental role to TV, movies, music, peers, school & Sunday school teachers and youth leaders
- Parents are to be blamed for their diminishing influence
- Parenting is a full time responsibility (Deut 6:6-7): no coffee breaks
- Neglect by one generation to plant good trees is detrimental for the next (Judges 2:7,10-13)
- Parents must be devoted to God

MacArthur, 2000:19-24



Ungodly Parenting

PROVOCATION TO ANGER

See Learning Area 3

- Overprotection
- Isolationism
- Overindulgence
- Promotion of self-esteemism
- Neglect
- Favoritism
- Unrealistic goals
- Discouragement
- Condescension
- Threatening to withdraw love
- Excessive discipline
- Moralism



MacArthur, 2000:134-140

Ungodly Parenting

A family without a commitment to the God of the Bible has no hope of stemming the tide of cultural onslaught.

*If we mix a little biblical truth, a little secular psychology,
a little romance ideology,
and a little eastern mysticism,
we will get a deadly mixture of lies.*

Unfortunately this is exactly what many Christian families do.

*We do marriage according to Dr. Phil,
raise our children according to Dr. Spock,
govern our sex lives according to Dr. Ruth,
and only run to Dr. Jesus*

when things have gotten so bad we can't find another doctor to help us.

Baucham, 2007:35

Ungodly Parenting

AUTHORITARIAN PARENTS (SITUATION)

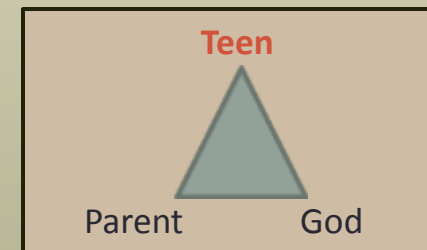
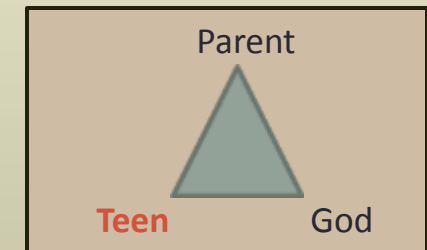
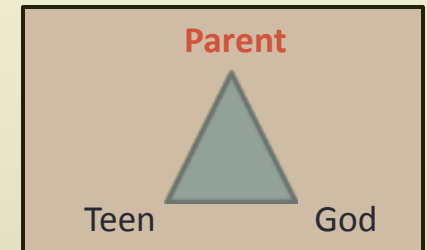
- Fixed and inflexible notions of right and wrong
- Lack of intimate interaction with teens
- Expect unquestioningly blind obedience
- Control and dominate teen's motives and behavior dictatorially
- Rarely allows dialogue about principles and rules
- Hardly ever give teens to state their own views
- Punish or threaten to punish any revolt against their authority or questioning of it

REACTIONS) OF TEENS (STRATEGIES)

- Moody, unhappy, retiring, uninterested, inhibited & irritable
- Less bold, creative, flexible, curious, mature in moral judgment
- Socially withdrawn

- Negative perception of parents (structure)
- May gradually become increasingly rebellious, provocative, challenging & conflicting

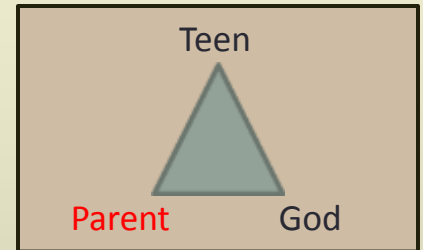
Gouws, 2000:70



Ungodly Parenting

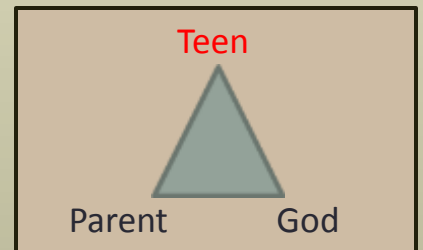
PERMISSIVE PARENTS (SITUATION)

- Usually exceedingly tolerant, non-controlling and non-threatening
- Either overprotective and over-involved or totally uninvolved
- Rarely make demands on adolescents
- Offer them considerable freedom because virtually no limits are set
- Hardly ever question teen's values, desires, motives and behavior
- Allow teens to make their own decisions without taking account of parents' wishes, values and convictions



REACTIONS) OF TEENS (STRATEGIES)

- Often feel vulnerable
- Act immaturely and unwisely
- Uncertain and develop self-reliance and self-control
- Selfish, lack of social responsibility and gratitude
- Addiction
- Reproach parents for their un-involvement and lack of guidance when things go wrong



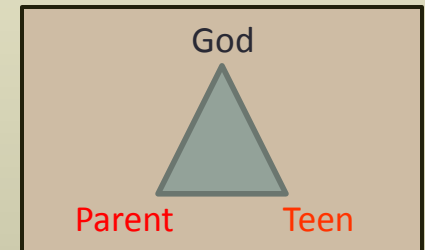
Godly Parenting

AUTHORITATIVE PARENTS (SITUATION)

- Finds identity in God (VC)
- Set down clear limits and rules
- Prepared to motivate and discuss boundaries set
- Appreciate disciplined behavior
- Respect teen's point of view & requests
- Set a premium on communication and even negotiation
- Sensitive towards teen's needs
- Demanding & nurturing at the same time

REACTIONS) OF TEENS (STRATEGIES)

- Finds identity in God (VC)
- Are usually confident, responsible and independent
- Boldly state their views
- Tend to have positive opinions of their parents



Gouws, 2000:71

Parental Idols

What really controls the hearts of parents?



Parental Idols

What really controls the hearts of parents?

- Ezekiel 14:4: It is God's priority to deal with the idols in parents' lives
- Idols will ruin parenting teenagers
- Idols:



Comfort



Respect



Appreciation



Success



Control

Parental Idols

COMFORT

- Sometimes parents see their home as a resort where they are entitled to get what they want: harmony, peace, ease, regularity, space, quiet
- Influence of culture: anti-marriage & anti-child (Baucham, 2007:24-28)
- Scripture depicts life as war being fought on the turf of your heart



RESPECT

- Father controlled by desire for respect subdues his daughter with force
- He views all her failures and weaknesses as a personal affront/insult
- He is not set on her fearing God, but expect only that she will fear him
- Only the Holy Spirit can instill respect in a child's heart



APPRECIATION

- Parent do many things for their kids and think they therefore deserve to be appreciated by their children
- Teenagers tend to be filled much more with self-orientation and self-interest than being filled with appreciation of their parents
- Parents should ask: Who am I serving when doings all these things for my child?



Tripp, 2001:29-34

Parental Idols

SUCCESS

- Parents tend to think that if they do their part, their children will be model citizens
- Parents think: I own my child; his obedience is my right
- Parent's identity – sense of achievement and success – is built on child
- Parents forget that children are not there to bring glory to them, but to God
- Parents need to be faithful, no matter what the outcome is
- Moments of ministry or moments of anger



CONTROL

- Choice: Submitting to God's rule or trying to be God
- Parents have a lot of control over small children
- Goal of parenting : To wean children from parental control in order to live independently under God's control.
- Parents and kids should trust God's control (Eph 1:22; Rom 8:28)
- Parents should not expect children to conform to their image (opinions, tastes, habits) but to that of Christ



Tripp, 2001:34-38

Parental Idols

MATERIAL PROSPERITY

- Material wealth can become a snare
- USA: “More must be better”
- Parents give things to their kids instead of time
- Men sacrifice their families on the altar of success
- Even successful preachers fail their families
- Prosperity can become idolatry (Deut 6:12-15): worshipping the gifts above the Giver
- Solution: Be a good steward by pursuing the best you can offer the world through your talents and abilities, not pursuing the best the world can give you
- Being a mother and wife is an honorable calling
- You can’t have it all and you don’t need it all
- Mothers should invest in their children: “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world”
- Two stories: Baucham’s mom graduated at 49; Coach’s marriage ended in divorce



Baucham, 2007: 151-169

Worldly View of Love



World has a romantic view of love: a random, overwhelming, uncontrollable, sensual force that comes and goes on a whim.
Myths about love: Love is:

1. **Random:** “We don’t choose who we fall in love with”; will stay in an abusive relationship; drawn to a person like a moth to a flame; irrational
2. **Overwhelming:** “This thing is bigger than both of us”; can’t prevail against it; can’t help falling out of love with spouse (to whom you made a promise: “I do”) and falling in love with someone else; children wonder: “When will parents fall out of love with me?”
3. **Uncontrollable:** “We just fell out of love”; no shame or remorse; love vanished as mysteriously as it came
4. **Sensual:** Love equals sex; sex is the ultimate end of romantic love; courtship and marriage are troubling formalities
5. **Doesn’t relate to other relationships:** father struggles to love his daughter as a grown up woman

God doesn’t love us like this. His love for us, and the love He expects from us for each other is not a fragile myth. True love endures, overcomes, triumphs and satisfies.

Baucham, 2007:51-58

Biblical Love

Deuteronomy 6:4	
You shall love the LORD your God	Love
with all your heart	is an act of the will
and with all your soul	accompanied by emotion
and with all your might	that leads to action

1. An act of the **will**: heart (lebab) = mind & will (VC: thoughts & desires)
2. Accompanied by **emotion**: (VC: happy, excited, thankful; neurotransmitters); love is not lead by emotions, e.g. anger, unhappiness; “God wouldn’t want me to stay in a marriage where I was miserable”
3. Leads to **action** on behalf of its object; doing; keeping God’s commandments (John 14:21)

This love has to be shown towards spouse & children
(e.g. Voddie chose daughter’s concert above conference)

Baucham, 2007:58-64

Biblical Love



1. Biblical love is **volitional**: Actions based on choice gives security. Those based on chemical states (e.g. not feeling well) are uncontrollable and overwhelming.
2. Biblical love is **inclusive**: Overwhelming, uncontrollable, unpredictable sensual love is **exclusive**: reserved for a lover or spouse. Biblical love includes spouse, children, neighbors and God. If love were only a sensual force, I wouldn't spread it out
3. Biblical love is **secure**: Love based on sensuality becomes a problem when your spouse is disabled or unattractive or absent. Biblical love doesn't back out when you don't get what you desire. Biochemistry doesn't determine commitment.
4. Biblical love **satisfies**: Not dependent on a biochemical rush. Safeguard self against temptations (1 Cor 10:12) because of commitment to spouse. (VC: You don't get everything you want /what God expects spouse to give).

Is this the *picture* children have of their parents' marital relationship?

Baucham, 2007:64-70

Biblical Worldview

**“These words , which I am commanding you today,
shall be on your heart”
Deuteronomy 6:6**

- Children need a **biblical worldview**
- Worldview is the playbook for the ballplayer
- The grid/lens/spectacle through which one sees the world
- Composed of our ground floor assumptions
- The sum total of our beliefs about the world that directs our daily decisions and actions
- Children should learn not simply to live by parental instructions, but by a biblical worldview
- Teens should learn to distinguish between personal convictions and Godly standards
- Legalism: Give teens parental rules; without worldview they may abandon rules when leaving home and parents are not there any more
- Teenagers should learn to articulate and apply biblical beliefs to real life issues
- Barna: Less than 10% of self-proclaimed “born-again Christians” & only 51 % of pastors in America have a biblical worldview
- Worldview comprises five elements: View of God, man, truth, knowledge and ethics

Baucham, 2007:71-78



Biblical Worldview

**“These words , which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart”
Deuteronomy 6:6**

View of	Secular Humanism	Christian Theism
God	Atheism	Theism
Man	Evolution	Creation
Truth	Relativism	Absolutism
Knowledge	Materialism/ Naturalism	Revelation in nature & Scripture
Ethics	Cultural	Scriptural

Baucham, 2007:78-79