

## Faith in S.T.A.G.E.S. – Teens & Tweens (13-17yrs old)

### Colossians 3:1-17

How many of us remember our teen years? How do we remember them...?  
If we had the opportunity to go back to this stage of life, would we?

**"The only constant in life is change!"** We discover this reality as teenagers!  
What's changing? \_\_\_\_\_

**It is not only a time marked by change, it's also a time in search of identity!**  
- *Who am I? Where do I come from? Why am I here? What is my purpose?*

With so much change, it's hard to answer the identity questions definitively!  
**How I see myself today may be different than how I see myself tomorrow!**

**This is why adolescence is so hard/frustrating/confusing/unpredictable/fun!**  
When it comes to things of faith, there is no better stage for engagement!

The seeds of faith, planted in childhood, start sprouting in the teen years...  
**What's really beneath the soil begins to get exposed in this stage of life...**  
- It is a time of identification... fertilization... uprooting... transplanting...

How should we engage these years while we are walking in them, and how  
do we engage others who are navigating through this stage of life and faith?

Though it's true that the "Teens & Tweens" stage of life is filled with  
constant change, **change is not the only constant... God & His Word is!**

**When faced with questions like "Who am I?"** Where else can we turn but to  
the One who created us... made us in His image... & calls us His own?

**When faced with questions like, "Do I have value?"** God's Word tells us that  
we are **"fearfully & wonderfully made"** ... and **"worth more than sparrows."**

**When faced with the "Why" questions of life, where else can we turn than  
to our only source of truth...** even if our every question doesn't get answered?  
- *Why don't I like who I am?* Sin distorts everything! **Romans 7:14-20**  
- *Why does life have to be so hard?* Sin has consequences! **Gen. 3:15-19**  
- *Why do bad things happen?* **Our world is broken!** **Romans 5:12-17**  
- *Why don't I seem to fit in?* Because this is not our home! **Hebrews 13:14**

God's Word alone speaks truth, & can counteract the lies we tell ourselves,  
& the deception that the evil one, & this world, tell us to believe!

**"Who are my people?"** This question plays a very important role in this stage  
as well! Our friends/significant other/who we spend our time with matters!

They are either drawing us closer to God, or pulling us further away from Him!  
**"Our people" will have a profound impact on our faith, so choose wisely!**

Teens & Tweens are also trying to figure out their place in this world...

**"What is my purpose?"** With so much change in this stage, when our future  
seem cloudy... only God's eternal purposes can be counted on! **Romans 12:2**

*"The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!"* Pursue  
what brings glory to God, & discover what enjoying Him forever looks like!

**Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:1-17**

**"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where  
Christ is... not on things that are on earth."** What are you seeking?

**"When Christ who is your life appears, then you will also appear with him  
in glory."** **How does knowing your eternal destination shape your today?**

**"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you..."** What are the things that  
need to be put to death in your life b/c they don't align with your new identity?

**"Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image  
of its creator..."** **"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved..."**

**"Here there is not Greek and Jew..."** **In Christ there are no clicks!**

**"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called..."** **In**  
**a stage, and in a world, filled with anxiety & unrest... peace is found in Christ**

**"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one  
another in all wisdom, singing psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, with  
thankfulness in your hearts to God."** **Inward/Upward/Outward transformation!**

**"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord  
Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father thru him."** **A faith-filled world view!**

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