

# MOMS & POPS STUFF

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## TAXI DRIVE TIME

These are ideas for you to use during that drive time between school, practices and meetings. Take advantage of that "trapped" time to pass on your faith.

### Short-Sighted Approach

When you drop your teen off at practice, you don't expect him/her to be a soccer player or a piano player as an adult. You just want your child to gain a life skill, some sort of knowledge, etc. But you also do want your child to take his/her faith into adulthood. What can you say on the way to practice that will help your teen grow his/her faith into adulthood? How can your teen learn now that faith is a part of everything in his/her life? May these thoughts permeate the minutes you have in the car together and provide you some words to say again and again and again.

### Reading the Bible While You Wait

Do you sometimes wait through a practice? Or wait if the meeting runs late? Bring your Bible and read it while you are waiting. Not only is it a good use of your time but more importantly, your teen will catch you reading the Bible. Too often teens don't actually see their parents having quiet times mostly because they are done when you can find some quiet--often away from them. But letting them catch you passes on this valuable practice as well as giving your teen a view of your actual faith life.

### Question Box

Put together a box or tin or whatever that has slips of paper with questions inside. During one ride, pull out one question which **both** of you will answer. Limit this to one question per ride and possibly one question per week or less. This will keep the value of the question box.

Some questions to add to your box:

- C Do you believe the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches? In everything?
- C Do you think the world will be a better or worse place 100 years from now?
- C When was the last time you felt zany?

### Proverb Probe

Give your child a 3x5 card with a Proverb written on it in your handwriting. Using your handwriting is important as it is something very personal about you which they can cherish forever. Ask your child the following questions about the Proverb.

Proverb 16:18 - "Too much pride will destroy you." - Why? How does one have too much pride? This sounds like something I (parent) would tell you and you would roll your eyes at. Does it make a difference that this is a verse from the Bible?



This is an idea to help you encourage your child with their academic achievement since that is an important issue for both of you.

### Homework or Cheating Dilemma--Using Facebook to Study Together

Middle and high school students are using instant messaging on Facebook to check on assignments as well as help each other figure out answers to questions. This walks a fine line of collaborating on work or cheating by taking advantage of a brainier friend's work. Here are some tips to help you figure out if this social network feature is for good or for evil:

1. Clarify the rule of no cheating. If you wouldn't do it in real life, then you shouldn't do it on Facebook. Same goes for cheating.
2. Give as much help as you get. Make sure that no one friend is being used for his/her seemingly endless supply of correct answers.
3. Know school policy. Check with your child's teachers or the school to make sure they approve of this type of collaboration. The practice is so common now that teachers may even encourage kids to work together to puzzle things out.
4. Impose time limits. This homework time on your computer still counts as that day's computer time. If the homework doesn't all get done after say, an hour, it's time for your kid to go it alone.
5. No bullying, even in homework situations.
6. Rein in the multitasking. There are several studies on the effects that multitasking has on kids. According to

some research, it appears that while multitasking doesn't erode the quality of kids' work, it does extend the time it takes to do it. If your kids are staying up late because they're doing homework, IMing, and checking Facebook, they may not be getting enough sleep. And studies show a direct correlation between the amount of sleep that kids get and their performance in school. Yet another reason to establish time limits!

(CommonSenseMedia.org)



### Family Vacation Picture Album

Family vacations are full of memories. This is why they are taken. When you plan an especially memorable vacation, plan ahead of time the picture album which will memorialize this trip. Give everyone in your family a disposable or their own digital camera. Don't forget to pick up a special camera that takes panoramic pictures and/or underwater pictures. This way pictures are being taken from everyone's point of view.

Once home again, get every picture printed. Plan one night for everyone in the family to help put together the photo album. Be sure everyone also journals some of their memories into that album.

You may also want to put together a computer slide show of this family trip to play again and again when the family gets together.

### Gleaning

Gleaning is a long-time practice of picking up what is left behind in harvesting. Several ministries who have hunger outreaches are receiving permission from farmers to glean and then ship the food to needy people. These ministries are regularly looking for volunteers to do the gleaning. What a wonderful adventure for your family to do together. Bring along several of your teen's friends too. To find a gleaning network in your area you can go to [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org) or Google.



The following are website recommendations. These are chosen based on their value as determined by our staff. These are not paid endorsements nor can we vouch for the ethics of their entire website.

**Daughters** (<http://www.daughters.com/>)

- A website dedicated to parents of daughters.

**Secret Survivors** (<http://www.secretsurvivors.com/>) - A blog site of real life stories and the secrets that are kept which harm. The authors of this site are also authors of a book by the same name. These women have a passion for hurting teens.

**Focus Adolescent Services** (<http://focusas.com/>) - The tagline is they are the largest and most comprehensive internet site of information and resources on teen and family issues to help and support families with troubled and at-risk teens. There are a ton of resources here, not all Christian-based but many to get help from.

**Care 2** (<http://www.care2.com/>) - A social networking site for those who are involved in animal welfare, wildlife and environmental concerns, and global warming. There are ways to get involved in these issues as well as with other people through this site.

**Wordle** (<http://www.wordle.net/>) - Create your own "word clouds" to honor an occasion, put on birthday invitations, etc. With some practice, you can create a personal piece of art for someone special.



This is a small glimpse into the youth culture to help you parents have some insight as to what is going on.

### The Family Budget Plan

Of moms and dads, 84% are discussing saving and budgeting with kids. And 81% say kids are aware of the recession and the impact it is having on household budgets. --CoolSavings survey, *Advertising Age*, April 27, 2009

### Teens On Social Networks--Some Regrets

- C 91% use social networks to stay in touch with friends.
- C 72% use social networks to make plans with friends.
- C 49% use social networks to make new friends.
- C 43% use social networks to organize with others for an event, issue or cause.
- C The average number of friends on a social networking site was 99. 43 are seen regularly in real life and 33 are never seen in person.
- C 60% said that the things friends wrote in their profiles could harm their careers.
- C 48% said they could be embarrassed by what they themselves wrote in their

profiles.

- C 38% said they regretted some of the items that had appeared on their pages already.

--eMarketer.com, April 16, 2009

### Teens on Drinking

From an internet quiz-type survey of over 2,000 of its tweens and teens:

- C 42% percent of teens and tweens said that they have never had a drink.
- C An additional 28% said they had only had a drink once.
- C 66% say they do not drink at a party where alcohol is served.
- C Of the remaining 34% who drink, they drink because:
  - they like the taste 15%
  - think they will have more fun 13%
  - everyone else is doing it 6%
- C Of those who drink alcohol, 18% said their parents buy it for them. 9% said their parents let them drink in the house under supervision.
- C Of those who drink alcohol, 42% say they take the alcohol from their parents.

--Pangea Pulse, Quibblo Survey, PRWeb.com, March 11, 2009

### A Giant Misperception for Women

From a survey of 3,616 students from two colleges:

- C 71% of the girls overestimated the amount of alcohol that the typical college man hoped his girlfriend or date would consume.
- C 26% of the girls thought the menfolk wanted their female companions to consume five drinks or more.
- C For the guys, both estimates were nearly double what the men actually preferred in women.

"Our research suggests women believe men find excessive drinking sexually attractive and appealing, but it appears this is a giant misperception." --Joseph LaBrie, lead author of the study --Loyola Marymount University study, *Washington Times*, March 10, 2009

### Sexting Stats

- C 30% have sent or received sexy messages/photos of themselves.
- C 47% have thought about sending sexy messages/photos.
- C Tween girls responded that they started sending sexy messages/photos at age 12, but receiving them, often from people they don't know, as young as 10.
- C When asked why they send or post sexy messages/photos, 82% said to get attention, 66% said to be "cool," 59% said to be like the popular girls, and 55% said to find a boyfriend.
- C When tween girls receive sexy

messages/photos that upset them, girls ages 10,11,12 are likely to tell a parent, but girls 13 and older are less likely to do so for fear their computers will be taken away and instead forward the messages/photos to their friends for "help."

--Allykatz.com survey, Ypulse.com, April 21, 2009

### Good News About Drug Abuse

From a survey of 6,518 teens, grades 7 through 12:

- C 78% say that their parents have talked to them about alcohol and marijuana.
- C 37% say they have learned "a lot" from their parents about drug abuse.
- C Girls are more likely than boys to report taking action to help a friend with a drug or alcohol problem, 45% compared with 38% for boys.
- C 65% agreed strongly that kids who use steroids for athletic performance or physical appearance are putting their health at risk.
- C 35% agreed strongly that they "don't want to hang around with anyone who uses marijuana." This is up from 28% a decade ago.

"We know from the last 20 years of this study that kids who report learning a lot at home about the drug issue are half as likely to use as kids who don't get that at home." --Steve Pasierb, president and chief executive of The Partnership for a Drug-Free America

--The Partnership for a Drug-Free America study, Associated Press, February 26, 2009

### Trend Alert: Hollywood Makes Evil Safe

"Most Americans, even those who say they are Christian, have doubts about the intrusion of the supernatural into the natural world. Hollywood has made evil accessible and tame, making Satan and demons less worrisome than the Bible suggests they really are. It's hard for achievement-driven, self-reliant, independent people to believe that their lives can be impacted by unseen forces. At the same time, through sheer force of repetition, many Americans intellectually accept some ideas--such as the fact that you either side with God or Satan, there's no in-between - that do not get translated into practice." --George Barna

--The Barna Group, April 13, 2009

**Please** feel free to submit ideas which you have done with your family. It is always good to provide a resource that is known to work and we do not claim to know it all. You will be credited for your submission and thanked profusely from us. Please submit your ideas at [momspops@wildfrontier.org](mailto:momspops@wildfrontier.org).