

# 3x4 Meeting Idea

**A 3x4** is a creative way to bring parents and teens together to talk about an issue that is important at home.

Prior to the scheduled 3x4, set up tables around the room with chairs for four. That is the 4 of the 3x4. Make sure there are enough tables for your crowd so that table numbers do not become larger than four. An extra bonus is to prepare plates of proper "talk food" for each table. Food is always a good icebreaker but be sure the food does not become a talk distractor. After much experience with these, the best "talk foods" are **M&Ms** and fruits/vegetables.

The questions or talk sheets are prepared in advance. Sometimes the talksheets may be the same for both age groups and sometimes there may be some differing variations. There are several talk sheets included with this resource.

Once everyone arrives, your role is emcee or facilitator. Direct four youth to sit at a table and four adults (separate the married couples) to sit at a table. For the first round, using the talk sheets you provide, ideas and opinions are bounced off of peers thus putting into words how they feel on the subject. Thirty minutes is about the right time before you move to the second round. You can disappear into the wallpaper until you need to announce the switch.

For the second round, switch to two parents with two youth at each table. No family members. The same questions are discussed again but now the parents get to hear the youth's point of view and the youth get to hear the parent's point of view from people who are not their parents.

For the third and final round (the 3 of the 3x4), the parents and their children come together to come up with their own family's conclusions based on all this input and communication.

You as emcee or facilitator can then reappear from the wallpaper and dismiss everyone in prayer.

Along with this idea, we have included several topics and talk sheets which have been used with "live parents and youth." The topics are:

**Family Rules**

**Those Big Church Words**

**Unstructured Time**

**Honor and Integrity** (Note: While all the questions are good and led to lots of good discussion, there were too many questions to move efficiently to all three rounds without becoming conversationally drained. But all questions were kept so you can pick and choose which ones you want.)

**Talking To, Dating, Hooking Up, and Whatever**

# Family Rules

## Youth Edition

1. What are your family rules?
2. What rules do you disagree with?
3. What rules do your friends have that you wish you had?
4. What rules do you wish your parents did have?
5. Why do parents place rules on their children?
6. If you were the parent, what rules would you come up with (and you can't say none)?
7. Why does God place rules on us?
8. Why do children break rules?
9. Tell a story of someone you know who broke a rule?
10. Tell a story of someone you know who kept a rule and was glad he/she did?
11. "Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, 'Obey your father and your mother, and you will have a long and happy life.'" Ephesians 6:1-3 What does this verse mean to you?
12. "My children, obey the teachings of your parents, and wear their teachings as you would a lovely hat or a pretty necklace." Proverbs 1:8-9 What does this verse mean to you?
13. "Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord." Ephesians 1:4 What are your parents' responsibility to you?

# Family Rules

## Parent Edition

1. What are your family rules?
2. Why do you have the rules that you have (and you can't say "because I said so")?
3. What rules do you disagree with?
4. What rules did you have as a child that you do not give to your children now?
5. Why do parents place rules on their children?
6. Why does God place rules on us?
7. Why do children break rules?
8. Tell a story of someone you know who broke a rule?
9. Tell a story of someone you know who kept a rule and was glad he/she did?
10. "My children, obey the teachings of your parents, and wear their teachings as you would a lovely hat or a pretty necklace." Proverbs 1:8-9 What does this verse mean to you?
11. "Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right." Proverbs 22:6 How do you live out this verse?

# Those Big Church Words

1. What is "baptism?"
2. What does communion" mean?
3. What does "sanctification" mean?
4. What does "blood of the lamb" mean? What does "saved by the blood of the lamb" mean?
5. What does "worthy is the lamb who was slain" mean?
6. What does "justification" mean when we say it in church?
7. What does "redemption" mean when we say it in church?
8. What does "atonement" mean when we say it in church?
9. What does "gospel" mean?
10. What does "grace" mean? What does "amazing grace" mean?
11. Do you think God is happy with the way He's represented in the world?
12. What is the best way you can think of that can best represent God in the world?

# The Debate Over Unstructured Time

## Youth Edition

1. Define unstructured time? Write your first table's combined definition here.
2. What do you do with your unstructured time? List
3. What of your list is a positive use of your unstructured time and why?
4. What of your list is a negative use of your unstructured time and why?
5. How many hours a week do you play video games?
6. If you were king/queen of the world, what would be the appropriate number of hours a week to play video games?
7. Do you ever watch TV by just flipping the channels not really caring what's on?
8. Do you ever watch a TV show you know you shouldn't be watching but do anyway?
9. If you were king/queen of the world, what would be the right number of hours a week to watch TV?
10. How do you determine what a good TV show is to watch?
11. If you were king/queen of the world, what would be the right number of hours a week to watch TV?
12. How much time do you spend on the internet/IMing friends?
13. What are some ideas you can brainstorm which is better use of your unstructured time? List.
14. What would motivate you to use your time better?
15. Why should your parents trust you?
16. How can you continue to have your parents trust?
17. If you have lost your parents trust, what can you do to gain it back?

# The Debate Over Unstructured Time

## Parent Edition

1. Define unstructured time? Write your first table's combined definition here.
2. What do you do with your unstructured time? List
3. What of your list is a positive use of your unstructured time and why?
4. What of your list is a negative use of your unstructured time and why?
5. What are some of the positive uses of your child's use of unstructured time?
6. What are some of the negative uses of your child's use of unstructured time?
7. How many hours a week do you play video games?
8. If you were king/queen of the world, what would be the appropriate number of hours a week to play video games?
9. Do you ever watch TV by just flipping the channels not really caring what's on?
10. Do you ever watch a TV show you know you shouldn't be watching but do anyway?
11. If you were king/queen of the world, what would be the right number of hours a week to watch TV?
12. How do you determine what a good TV show is to watch? Are those rules different for you than for your child? Why?
13. How much time do you spend on the internet?
14. What are some ideas you can brainstorm which is better use of your child's unstructured time? List.
15. What are the important things that create trust between you and your teen?
16. If your teen lost your trust for whatever reason, what would need to take place to begin to gain that trust back?

# Integrity and Honor

## Parent Edition

1. Define integrity. Define honor.
2. How does the word honorable make you feel?
3. Do you live a life of honor? In every area of your life? Which areas do you have trouble living honorably?
4. Why should you be a person of integrity?
5. Would other people describe you as a person of integrity or one of honor?
6. Would your child describe you as a person of integrity or one of honor?
7. How important are honesty and trust in your friendships and other relationships? Why?
8. How important is it that people trust you? Why?
9. How important is it that your child trusts you? Why?
10. Do you treat others with respect? Think about everyone. Who do you not treat with respect and why?
11. How can one treat property with disrespect? Do you do this? If so, why?
12. Does what you wear affect how people respect you? Why or why not?
13. Does your style of clothes affect your integrity and honor? Why or why not?
14. How many lies a day do you tell? Who do you tell these lies to?
15. What makes a lie okay and a lie bad?
16. Do you have friends who lie?
17. Do your friends lie to you?
18. How do I handle it when someone lies about me in front of others? Adults and or kids?
19. What do I do or say when I get in trouble for someone else's lies?
20. Do you lie to your child?
21. Do you cheat at work? What dilemmas do you face at work?
22. Do you think cheating or lying affects one's character?
23. What does the phrase "What would Jesus do?" have to do with integrity?
24. What areas in your life do you need to improve on so you can be a better person of integrity?

# Integrity and Honor

## Teen Edition

1. Define integrity. Define honor.
2. How does the word honorable make you feel?
3. Do you live a life of honor? In every area of your life? Which areas do you have trouble living honorably?
4. Why should you be a person of integrity?
5. Would other people describe you as a person of integrity or one of honor?
6. How important are honesty and trust in your friendships and other relationships? Why?
7. How important is it that people trust you? Why?
8. How important is it that your parents trust you? Why?
9. Do you treat others with respect? Think about everyone. Who do you not treat with respect and why?
10. How can one treat property with disrespect? Do you do this? If so, why?
11. Does what you wear affect how people respect you? Why or why not?
12. Does your style of clothes affect your integrity and honor? Why or why not?
13. How many lies a day do you tell? Who do you tell these lies to?
14. What makes a lie okay and a lie bad?
15. Do you have friends who lie?
16. Do your friends lie to you?
17. How do I handle it when someone lies about me in front of others? Adults and or kids?
18. Do you lie to your parents? If yes, what areas in your life cause you to lie?
19. What do I do or say when I get in trouble for someone else's lies?
20. Do you cheat at school?
21. Have you ever used a calculator, cellphone, PDA for cheating?
22. Have you given your done assignment to a friend to copy? Is that cheating?
23. When doing classwork that is also group work, is it cheating if you do odds and your partner does evens (or whatever combination)?
24. Do you think cheating or lying affects one's character?
25. What does the phrase "What would Jesus do?" have to do with integrity?
26. What areas in your life do you need to improve on so you can be a better person of integrity?

# Talking To, Dating, Hooking Up, and Whatever

1. Define "talking to." Write your first table's combined definition here.
2. Define dating. Write your first table's combined definition here.
3. Define "hooking up." Write your first table's combined definition here.
4. What do you think of "hook ups?"
5. What do you think about the term "friends with benefits?"
6. What do you think of the term "going steady?"
7. Are there any other slang terms you've heard for boy/girl stuff? If yes, write them down and define them for the rest of the table to understand.
8. At what age should a boy be talking to a girl?
9. At what age should a girl be talking to a boy?
10. At what age should a boy be allowed to date?
11. At what age should a girl be allowed to date?
12. Why are there differences for boys and girls?
13. Is there a difference if a boy "hooks up" than if a girl "hooks up?" Why or why not?
14. In what situation is kissing okay?
15. Can a middle school student be in love?
16. Can a high school student be in love?
17. Does it matter if the person you are talking to is a Christian or not?
18. Does it matter if the person you are dating is a Christian or not?
19. Situation: Jimmy is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He is a Christian and active in his youth group. This weekend there is a school dance and a bunch of Jimmy's friends are going but Jimmy's parents won't let him go because they don't want Jimmy socializing with girls in that sort of situation yet. How right or wrong are Jimmy's parents? Use a number scale of 1 being very right and 10 being very wrong.
20. Janie and a bunch of her friends were at the movies. While hanging out before the movies, Janie and her friends met up with some guys they've known

from school and both groups continued to hang together. **A**t the end of the evening, **T**odd kissed **J**anie. **H**ow right or wrong was that? **U**se a number scale of 1 being very right and 10 being very wrong.

21. **M**organ and **G**reg are both in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and active in the same youth group. **G**reg and **M**organ are officially "talking". **B**ut **M**organ's parents found out and made them break up. **H**ow right or wrong are **M**organ's parents. **U**se a number scale of 1 being very right and 10 being very wrong.