

The purpose of the first paragraph is to reveal stats and quotes from mainstream sources about the growing struggles teens may have regarding each topic. The purpose of the second paragraph is to reveal God's perspective by seeing what the Bible says regarding each topic and how we can receive help and guidance in our life's purpose through a relationship with Jesus.

FAMILY/HOME LIFE

55% of American teens ages 15-17 do not live in intact families¹⁷⁵. 24% of ages 12-17 are born with only their mother, 5% only with their father and 5% with neither¹⁷³. One in three children live in single parent homes¹⁷⁵. Almost 40% of the US homeless are under 18, 57% of them spending at least one day a month without food¹⁷⁷. Family and home life is often filled with broken relationships and constant problems hard to deal with and understand.

The Bible says God's desire is for family to serve Him together (Josh. 24:15) with love and forgiveness (Eph. 4:32). Fathers aren't supposed to be harsh (Eph. 6:4), nor mothers (Prov. 14:1). Husbands and wives should love one another (Eph. 5:21-28). Children should be a blessing (Ps. 127:3) and obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-2). No one should bring ruin on their family (Prov. 11:29) but look out for them (1 Tim. 5:8). Our earthly family isn't our only family, though. Jesus calls us to love Him more than our earthly family (Luke 14:26-27) and God is to be our ultimate father (2 Cor. 6:18). As children of a loving God (1 John 3:1), we can now have a family of Christians (the church) who are to always love and support one another through this life (Acts 2:42-47).

BIBLE VERSES TO CONSIDER

Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Proverbs 14:1 "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."

Ephesians 5:21-28 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing[b] her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

Psalms 127:3 "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Ephesians 6:1-2 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise."

Proverbs 11:29 "Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind."

1 Timothy 5:8 "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Luke 14:26-27 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

2 Corinthians 6:18 "And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Acts 2:42-47 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Acts 10:2 "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly."

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Proverbs 6:20 "My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching."

Proverbs 15:20 "A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

Proverbs 15:27 "The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live."

James 4:1-2 "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight."

Matthew 15:18-19 "But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

Mark 3:35 (Jesus) "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Matthew 10:34-39 (Jesus) "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

1 Timothy 3:5 "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"

Proverbs 24:3-4 "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Hebrews 3:4 "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."

Galatians 3:26 "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

Romans 8:14 "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

John 1:12 "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

1 Timothy 5:1-2 "Do not rebuke an older man harshly but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

STATS & QUOTES TO CONSIDER

The quality of parents' relationships makes a difference to children in many ways.

Two out of three (66%) of adolescents age 12-17 live with both parents, 24% with their mother only, 5% with their father only, and 5% with neither parent.

About 7% of children under 18 lived in a grandparent's home in 2017, usually with one or both parents.

Parent-child connectedness is associated with a wide range of health indicators.

Most parents of teens (age 12-17) feel they can share ideas and talk about things that really matter very well (63%); only 5% felt they could not communicate well. Parents of three out of four teens feel that their family can talk about and work together to resolve problems, knowing that they have strengths to draw on and can be hopeful even in difficult times.

Boys (82%) and girls (76%) said they valued their parents' opinions over their friends' when it came to serious decisions.

The great majority understood that their mothers cared about them (91% boys, 89% girls), and that their fathers cared as well (82% boys, 79% girls).

Adolescents join their families for a meal less often as they grow older but do benefit when they eat regularly with their parents. Frequent family meals are associated with higher self-esteem and positive academic outcomes, as well as decreased depression, alcohol and substance abuse, suicidal thoughts, and violent behavior. Adolescents who join three or more family meals each week also have healthier eating patterns, including greater consumption of fruits, vegetables, and vitamins, and reduced likelihood of eating unhealthy foods, among other outcomes.

Even for the most prepared parents, raising a healthy and happy child is one of life's major challenges.

55 percent of 15-to-17-year-olds in America do not live in intact families.

More than 40 percent of all children are born out of wedlock.

One in three children live in single-parent homes.

The importance of intact families cannot be overstated. Research shows that children tend to do best with their married fathers and mothers. Overall, teenagers in intact families are more likely to be emotionally healthy, have higher self-esteem, and progress further in education.

How children see the world is bound to be framed first and foremost by what they experience at home.

Marriage and family breakdown do indeed have a big impact on teenage mental health problems.

Every Year, More Than 2 Million Kids in America Will Face a Period of Homelessness.

In case after case, the main cause of youth homelessness is physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse from parents or guardians.

57% of homeless kids spend at least one day every month without food.

In the United States, as many as 20,000 kids are forced into prostitution by human trafficking networks every year.

According to a study of youth in shelters, nearly 50% reported intense conflict or physical harm by a family member as a major contributing factor to their homelessness.

More than 25% of former foster children become homeless within two to four years of leaving the system.

50% of adolescents aging out of foster care and juvenile justice systems will be homeless within six months because they are unprepared to live independently and have limited education and no social support.

Almost 40% of the homeless in the United States are under 18.