



10 ACTION IDEAS FOR YOU AND YOUR TEENAGE SON

1. Let your son teach you something he's good at. He gets to be the expert, and you get to spend time with him.
2. Dads: While money is often an issue, there's really nothing like a father/son road trip of some sort. At some point during your son's early to mid-teen years, splurge a bit and take him on a cool man-trip with just the two of you, creating some amazing memories and providing lots of time to talk.
3. Moms: Have him plan, save up for, and pay for his first date—with you. He gets to open the door for you, pull out your chair and seat you, take you out on the town, and you get to coach him on how to treat women.
4. Have him research something in the world that is unjust, and then together figure out to help remedy the problem. Then do something!
5. Listen. Truly listen. This means you'll need how to learn how to ask open-ended questions. The best time to do this might be at bedtime (yours, if not his!).
6. Have a night of stories. Get family members together and retell the narrative of your family and how he fits into the big picture.
7. Plan a bar mitzvah of sorts (a rite of passage celebration). On his birthday get his pastor, youth group leaders, friends, and family members together to read prayers over him, affirm him, revision him, and empower him to write an amazing story with his life.



8. Have him help you write the rules of the house and what the consequences would be if the rules were broken. Post them on the refrigerator, and help him learn the valuable lesson of disciplining himself.
9. Set up a tent in the backyard for no reason other than to have a quick impromptu campout and wonderful family time.
10. Research a physical challenge together, train for it, and then go do it. Scale a cliff, climb a mountain, run a race, whatever—just do it together.



AS A BONUS, HERE ARE 10 THINGS THAT EVERY TEENAGE GUY NEEDS

1. Every teenage guy needs measured freedom.
2. Every teenage guy needs a passion or interest area in which he can develop competence.
3. Every teenage guy needs real, enduring friendship.
4. Every teenage guy needs solid boundaries and guidelines that are defined and in place.
5. Every teenage guy needs to learn about consequences. You disciplining him now will help him learn how to discipline himself later.



6. Every teenage guy needs parents who see beneath and beyond the apathy or the attitude, and creatively and sensitively dig to discover what's really going.
7. Every teenage guy needs a dedicated fan, an adult other than a parent who is committed to him for the long haul.
8. Every teenage guy needs to be exposed to the hurting, the broken, and the marginalized, and experience the empowerment and opportunity to join a cause of justice.
9. Every teenage guy needs parents who do their best to get him connected to the church and the youth ministry.
10. Every teenage guy needs parents who apologize when they make mistakes.