

Junior High Life Stage PARENTING “PUNCH LIST”



In home construction and remodeling, a “**punch list**” is used during a project to outline the items that need to be covered to complete a job well. Likewise, Watermark Family Ministry has assembled this **Parenting Punch List** that you can use as a guide to be prepared for parenting a **Junior High child**. The material presented below is targeted towards parenting ages 12 through 14 years (Grades 6 through 8)..

PILLARS

Like a house, our parenting must have a firm foundation to raise courageous Christian leaders in an ever-changing world that has lost its way. That foundation is God’s Word and we encourage you to consider the following “pillars” that anchor how we parent our kids:

MODEL

Deuteronomy 6:6 calls us as parents to model our faith to our children by keeping God’s word in our hearts.

Here are some ways to **Model** during the **Junior High** life stage:

| AREA | ACTION |
|----------------|---|
| You | Connect with God through Bible Study and prayer Web Resource: jointhejourney.com |
| Your Marriage | Ruthlessly pursue oneness with your spouse in the areas of communication, intimacy and fellowship Web Resource: marriagehelp.org |
| Community | Resist isolation by connecting with others and parenting in community Web Resource: Connect at community@watermark.org |
| External Focus | Serve our immediate community and the world Web Resource: watermark.org/impact and watermark.org/familyserve Service Resources: One Week Summer Dallas Experience with Wake morewake.com ; World Prayer Ministries operationworld.org ; kidsofcourage.com |

TRAIN

Proverbs 22:6 calls us to train up a child in the way they should go so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. The Bible is the ultimate resource for parents. As we are told in **2 Timothy 3:16**, “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”. The resources provided are not meant to be a replacement of but a supplement to your regular reading of God’s word and your prayers for wisdom and discernment in leading your children.

Here are some ways to **Train** yourself during the **Junior High** life stage:

| ACTION | RESOURCE |
|-----------|--|
| Read | Age of Opportunity - Tripp |
| Listen | Students Media Channel at watermark.org/media/ to listen to Wake messages and discuss them with your kids |
| Attend | Wake Parent meetings and get to know your child’s Small Group leaders. Encourage your kids to attend Wake. |
| Check Out | The Orange Parents Blog at orangeparents.org |

Here are some ways to **Train** your child during the **Junior High** life stage:

| TOPIC | PRAY FOR WISDOM REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ACTION AREAS: |
|-----------------------|---|
| Spiritual Development | How does God want us to pour into our children to grow in their faith? Book Resources: <i>Suddenly They are 13</i> - Arp For Kids: Girls/Boys Life Application Bible <i>The Young Peacemaker</i> - Sande <i>Hero Biography series</i> - YMAM Publishing |
| Discipline | How are we being called by God to discipline our children? Book Resource: <i>Parenting with Scripture</i> - Durbin |
| Media Management | How is God calling us to manage media in our home right now? How does that affect what movies and music our kids are exposed to? How does that affect computer and mobile device use? Do we need to evaluate use of more substantive technology protection (<i>website blocking, internet accountability software</i>)? |
| Sexual Purity | How does God want us to plan and prepare our hearts and home to address sexual purity? Parent Book Resource: <i>Passport to Purity</i> - FamilyLife <i>Aggressive Girls, Clueless Boys</i> - Rainey <i>Wanting to Be Her</i> - Graham Book Resource for Kids: <i>Facing the Facts</i> - Jones Web Resource: Exposed! podcast watermark.org/plano/series/432 |
| Stewardship | How are we being called to steward financial resources as a family? What messages does God want us to send our children about our relationship with money and material possessions? |
| Time Management | How is God calling us to manage the time He has given us in this season? What kind of pace are we setting? Is it sustainable? |

PRAY

Ephesians 6:18 calls us as parents to pray at all times in the Spirit so that we are parenting according to God's plan and our child's unique design. This includes praying for wisdom and discernment as we seek direction on how to approach key Decision Points related to the **Junior High** life stage.

Here are some ways to **Pray** during the **Junior High** life stage:

| ACTION | RESOURCE |
|--------|--|
| Pray | <i>Guiding Your Teenagers Prayer Card</i> - Family Life |

TRUST

Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us as parents to trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lead on our own understanding. We are called to acknowledge him in all situations and He will make our path straight. These "pillars" of Model, Pray, Trust and Train are underpinned by living out **Matthew 22: 37-39** to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves.



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