

What we need to discuss with our youth

Discussion 1:

What is the law of chastity to our family? Hopefully it goes hand in hand with Gospel principles and those things taught in the [For the Strength of Youth](#) pamphlet. These are great resources.

Just like every other thing we teach our children, we introduce them to ideas and principles at appropriate times and in varying degrees of depth. Not *everything* needs to be introduced to a 12 year old. As you discuss different types of relations with your child, seek for inspiration and you will know where to begin and where to stop.

Reading through the For the Strength of Youth pamphlet can be a great post-church discussion or a planned FHE lesson. There are several talks about the law of chastity given during general conference and for BYU devotionals. Search lds.org for more resources.

Discussion 2:

What can youth ask/discuss with their parents and will there be consequences?

Sample questions/discussions followed by (DISCUSSION TOPIC):

- Hey mom, my friend is in a “serious relationship” with a 19 year old. (ILLEGAL - TELL PARENTS? POLICE?)
- Mom, what is “*^#@*&? Someone said it today and everyone gasped.” (MATTER-OF-FACT DISCUSSION)
- Mom, why do you read those books? (DOUBLE STANDARD?)
- Mom, my friend admitted to looking at porn daily. (SEVER or MODERATE RELATIONSHIP?)

Major Questions:

YOUTH WANT TO KNOW: What are parents going to do with this information?

- Will they use it against youth later?
- Will they not let youth hang out with “that friend” or the people who taught/showed the youth that, again?
- Will the parent tell on youth’s friend to their parent(s)?
- Will the parent tell their own friends - gossip about their child.

These things need to be discussed. When it's been decided or agreed upon how the parent is going to react and the youth knows, it's more likely they are going to come to their parent with these concerns or questions. **Both parties can feel at ease if they know they can trust the other.**

PARENTS WANT TO KNOW: What can and should parents be asking?

- What are your passwords and give me your phone? This should be a regular occurring activity. Go through it together. This isn't their diary/journal. It's ok.
- Have you seen or heard anything lately that was weird/bad/uncomfortable? Start the conversation. One of you has to. Be the adult and step up.
- **Who?** Who will you be with. Will there be adults? 18-year olds don't count (or maybe they do).
- **What?** Please tell me there's a plan. Bad things seem to happen when there's no plan.
- **Where?** I want to know where you are. Just like anything else important to me, I like to know where they all are.
- **When?** Curfew? Check-in time? Boundaries are healthy. It's ok.

*Some of the more serious discussions/concerns may need to be addressed differently. Especially when it involves illegal activity. You make the parameters as the parent and discuss them with your child.

Easy segues into discussions:

Watching TV

Listening to Music

Seeing ads/media

Schedule a regular occurring time

Resources:

For the Strength of Youth Pamphlet

Gospel Principles Ch 39

Elder Bednar - "We Believe in Being Chaste" April 2013

"Atonement - Not a One Time Thing", <https://youtu.be/bvn7Q2RnSoc>

Scriptures:

- Mosiah 4:29-30
- D&C 68:25
- Alma 41:10
- Mosiah 2:41
- John 15:10-11
- 2 Nephi 2:25