

## Help teens Part 2

As I look back on the lives of our children, I realise more than ever the importance of early training.

**First**, we expected them to contribute to our family life from a young age without pay. This didn't mean that we were not generous with our gift-giving for their birthdays and at Christmas time, etc.

**Second**, we taught them the simple skills of sharing in home chores, and concentrating on meeting school homework commitments each night. This was easy because TV was a new thing back then - our neighbours had one, but we didn't. We only hired television during school holidays.

**Third**, we encouraged our youngsters to be resilient - to extend themselves by setting simple short-term goals. For example, my wife prompted our individualistic daughter to play netball, which helped her learn valuable lessons about team work.

**Fourth**, when our expectations for teen behaviour were positive, this helped us avoid problems that negativity can bring into family life.

**Fifth**, we ended evening meals with a brief time of Christian devotion. Giving attention to our family's spiritual well-being made a permanent impact for good, with each of our teenagers going on to base their own subsequent home life on Christian principles.

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**It's wonderful to see our children teaching their own offspring about God and his great love.**

**Ken Packer**