



TODAY YOUR PRETEEN LEARNED

YOU'VE GOT GIFTS

What Are Our Gifts?

Today your preteen explored the idea of a possible spiritual gift he or she might have. In class the students were to fill out a Spiritual Gifts Survey. Your preteen may be hesitant to share the results of the survey with you. He or she may have doubts as to whether a spiritual gift really exists. This is a normal reaction at this age.

Encourage your preteen to go ahead and plan an idea of how to put his or her possible spiritual gift to work in practical ways. Pray that God will reveal His will for your preteen's future.



Look for signs of gifts in your preteen's life. Pray that God will help you be a source of encouragement. This week, tell your son or daughter what spiritual gifts you see in him or her.

PARENT CONNECTIONS

for families of Preteens

PARENT POINTERS

Are you a positive or negative communicator?

Do you encourage or discourage your preteen with your words?

Check yourself out by seeing which column is most familiar to you.

Learn to communicate positively with your children and others.

WORDS THAT ENCOURAGE

Knowing you, I'm sure that you will do fine.
You can make it.
I have faith in you.
Thanks for your help.

You're doing fine.
I enjoyed that song.

I can see you put a lot of effort into that.
You have really improved.
You'll figure it out.

You can only learn by trying.
That was a good effort. Don't worry about the mistake.
Let's think this through together.
You've done some good thinking. Are you ready to start?
That's a challenge. But I'm sure you'll make it.

WORDS THAT DISCOURAGE

Knowing you, I think that you should do more.
You usually make mistakes, so be careful.
I doubt that you can do it.
If you had finished clearing the table, that would have been helpful.

You can do better.
Your music is getting better, but you missed the notes at the end.

That is a good job, but the corners are ragged.
Well, you're doing a little better than last year.
You had better get some help. That looks very difficult.

I doubt you should try.
Why didn't you think of that before you started?

How can you look so smart but be so dumb?
That plan will never work.

That is too difficult for you. I'll do it.

Adapted from Don Dinkmeyer and Gary McKay, *Raising a Responsible Child* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1973), 99-101.

Even at the most difficult time, the family is the place where we can be forgiven, accepted, and given a fresh start.

—Paul Pearsall

(*The Power of the Family* [New York: Doubleday, 1990], 18.)



Take your preteen or your whole family on a picnic. Pack a blanket, lots of fun food, and a Frisbee or ball, and get out of the house. Try to make sure you don't have a lot of other things planned the day you go so that everyone can just relax. You might want to take a book to be read out loud. Or

make up a game to play with your Frisbee or ball.

Not only is it good for your family to be out together, but also it is good for others to see a family having fun together and getting along.