

# HOPE RISING

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 6

1. Do you think that teenagers can be a significant spiritual influence on other people? If you had a significant spiritual influence in your life as a teenager, share how this affected you personally. If you did not have that kind of influence as a teenager, how could it have affected your life today if you had that kind of influence in your peer group as you grew up?

2. Read Deuteronomy 4:9 and 6:4-9. In these two passages, to whom did God give the responsibility for teaching spiritual truth to children and grandchildren? How are we to do this according to the passage in chapter 6? What do you think it means to do this? Do you think this means teenagers also?

3. It has been said that you can teach younger children what to believe but you must show teenagers how to live what they believe. Another way this has been put is that “more is caught than taught.” How do teenagers respond to hypocrisy when they see it in the lives of adults? How did you respond to hypocrisy when you were a teenager?

4. Read 2 Timothy 1:5 and 1 Timothy 4:12. It is believed that Timothy was a teenager when Paul first met him. In the 2 Timothy passage, what does Paul credit as the reason Timothy has such a strong faith? In the 1 Timothy passage, what did Paul tell him to do even though he was so young? Did Paul have high expectations of Timothy even though he was young? Should we have high expectations of the teenagers in our lives?

5. What was the hardest thing that you can remember about being a teenager? How can we help the teens we know to grow spiritually? As parents, what can we do to protect our teenagers in a world that gives no value to spiritual truth?

Challenge – As a small group consider pooling your resources and provide a scholarship for a teenager who cannot afford to go to the Grace Youth Group Summer Camp in July. These types of spiritual retreats can have a huge influence in the lives of teenagers. The cost of one week of camp is \$395 per teen.