

This weekly guide has been created as a tool to help you study individually and/or in a small group and live what you are learning from the Bible and weekend services here at RiverGlen.

In Acts 2:42 we are told that the people in the first church were living out what they were learning from the apostles' teaching. **The purpose of this guide is to equip you to put into practice what you learn.**



Suburban Legends

This is our 5th week in a relationship series called "Suburban Legends" that continues through Father's Day. Suburban legends are things we are told about relationships and sometimes it is really hard to tell if it's a legend or if it's true. This weekend it's all about teenagers!

Week 5: "Teenagers are Just Rebellious"

Read I Sam. 17:12-32 This is the account of David being sent as a young man to the battlefield to support his older brothers who are in the military. At this point in his life, David already has been anointed by Samuel as the rightful successor to Saul, and yet David still is tending sheep for his father and running errands for the family. While the Bible does not give us enough information to assume too much about David as a young man, it appears that he had a pretty good attitude in regard to his family and friends. Apparently, not every teenager rebels. David as a young man could have made his family miserable with the fact that he was the next chosen king of Israel. But he chose not to. Instead, he kept humbly serving until the right opportunities unfolded for God to use him in a mightier way.

1. Name a time in your life when you were being asked to do things that seemed beneath you.
2. How is your attitude toward your closest family members?
 Distant Frustrated Joyful Patient
 Expectant Discouraged Hopeful
3. What sort of attitude would you like God to cultivate in you?

While David's character in his younger years seems to have been far from rebellious, that didn't mean that he wasn't vulnerable to rebellious moments. Occasionally, people who don't rebel in their younger years surprisingly rebel in adulthood. This seems to have been the case for David in 2 Sam. 11. Read verses 1-2. Why are these verses significant? Most regrettable moments can be traced back to decisions that at the time may seem to be innocuous enough. I'll go to the party, but just for a little while. I'll only have one drink. I'll just tell half the truth; it won't hurt anybody. King David decided to stay home instead of going to war, as he would typically do. He probably justified his decision based on his past victories and his successes. We tend to justify our decisions, as well.

1. Think of a rebellious moment in your life. Think about the origins of that moment. What decisions did you make early on that got you into trouble?
2. How vulnerable are you right now to a spirit of rebellion?

3. What is your state of mind right now?
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At peace with God | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling over some issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling justified in my achievements | <input type="checkbox"/> Struggling to hang on |

Read 2 Sam. 13:1-22 This is a disturbing story about Amnon, David's son and Amnon's half-sister, Tamar. An interesting note about Amnon is that he likely was a teenager about the time of David's encounter with Bathsheba.

1. What impact, if any, do you think there was for Amnon when he saw the drama unfold between David and Bathsheba while he was a teenager?
2. What do you think he learned from his observations?

This is a convicting observation for parents. Many of us, if we looked closely enough, could see how and why our children rebel, based on what they have seen in our lives.

1. Think of a "defining moment" in your family when you were growing up. What did you learn—or not learn—from this moment?
2. Whether you are a parent, an aunt, an uncle, a grandparent or just a role model for someone younger, what would you hope you are passing on to them?
 Optimism Faith Encouraging Words Integrity Other
3. We teach those who watch us many lessons based on our beliefs, our actions, our statements, our choices. What lessons have you passed on to those who come behind you that you regret?

Read 2 Sam. 13:23-38 This passage, together with the passage from yesterday, paints a grim picture of David's family life. First, Amnon is guilty of sexual sin with his half-sister. Then Absalom murders his brother Amnon, avenging" his sister's disgrace. Consider the generational patterns of sexual misconduct and murder that we see in David's family. Shocking how quickly these emerge following David's sin.

1. What generational patterns from your family have impacted you in a negative way?
 Addictions Divorce Abuse
 Fear/Anxiety Perfectionism Workaholism

Amnon and Absalom both could have given logical reasons why they felt and acted the way they did. A sense of entitlement learned at home, righteous indignation, an inattentive father. Who knows what reasons they might have stated to explain their behavior? But at the end of the day, they were the ones who had to accept the consequences of their rebellion.

2. How and where have your rebellious moments caught up with you?
3. What patterns are you passing on to your children and grandchildren?

Read Luke 2:41-52 Fast forward several generations to another "son of David." Re-read verse 43. This verse seems to imply that Jesus intentionally chose to stay behind in Jerusalem, even though his family was leaving. Men and women likely traveled with extended family and Joseph and Mary likely assumed (wrongly) that Jesus, though He was not with them, probably was with the other parent. By the time they realize his absence, they are over a day's travel away from Jerusalem. Mary accuses Jesus of rebelling in verse 48 asking, "Why have you treated us like this?" Jesus responds with a question of his own: "Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?"

1. What do you make of Jesus'"rebellion" in this passage?
 typical teenage stuff silly teenage mistake
 choosing God's plan over his family's plan righteous rebellion

Jesus gives us a great example of how God can use rebellion for His good. God does not always call us to play it safe or keep the peace. At times in fact, He encourages us to step out in faith, go against the flow, speak the truth in love and challenge the status quo.

2. Where would God have you or your children exercise some righteous rebellion in your life?
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> confronting someone | <input type="checkbox"/> taking an ethical stand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> not people-pleasing | <input type="checkbox"/> sharing my faith |

Reflection & Prayer *Lord, God we come before you today and acknowledge areas of our life filled with rebellion and damaging patterns of relating with You and with others. Forgive us Lord. We invite you to come into our heart and release us from these areas. We ask You God to come teach us and change us. Give us a godly and righteous rebellion used for Your Glory Alone. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.*