



PROACTIVE DISCUSSION FOR PARENTS/YOUTH WORKERS TO HAVE WITH TEENS

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1. Would you rather be married when you are expecting your first child? Does it matter? Why or why not?
2. What are the benefits and blessings of keeping yourself pure until marriage?
3. What are the difficulties and drawbacks of making a choice to abstain from sex until marriage?
4. Do you want to marry a virgin? Why?
5. If you have sex outside of marriage, have you ever thought that the person you are doing that with is someone else's future husband/wife? There's no guarantee you're going to marry that person. Would you want your future husband/wife experimenting with sex with someone else?
6. How would you handle it if you found yourself (or your girlfriend) pregnant at age 15? (or choose other ages)
7. What would your choice be, and what are the ramifications of each choice? (Talk about all of them: abortion, parenting, adoption.)
 - a. Give them information about abortion from the book, *Why Can't We Say the "A" Word in Church? Overcoming Our Dirtiest Secret with Hope and Grace*. You can also look at other sources. Talk in depth about it.
 - b. Have them do research on what it's like to be a teen parent and what it's like to place a baby for adoption. Talk about both the blessings and drawbacks of both.
 - c. Ask who they can count on for support for each choice.
8. Talk about how having a baby would change their life and the lives of their parents, siblings and friends.
 - a. Responsibilities
 - b. Time out with their friends
 - c. Continuing school
 - d. Future life plans

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9. Help them figure out the financial cost of having and raising a baby. (Medical needs while pregnant, birth, for self and child after birth, food, housing, education, etc.)
10. How do you plan to support this baby and possibly the father/mother of the baby as a teen or young adult?
11. Talk about the different scenarios they might encounter with the parents of their boyfriend/girlfriend.
 - a. How will you respond to their emotional reaction – anger, disappointment, fear, etc.?
 - b. What if they insist on a choice you don't want?
 - c. What if they refuse to support you in a different choice or want nothing more to do with you or refuse to allow you to see your girlfriend/boyfriend anymore? How will you handle each possible scenario?
12. Are you ready to have a baby?
 - a. If the answer is no, then remind them again that having sex is making a plan to have one, no matter the precautions.
 - b. Offer to keep a friend's baby or toddler for a day or two and have your son or daughter be solely responsible, with your supervision, for the care of that child.