

# Family & Personal Relationships

Follow Steps #1-3 to complete this assignment. Click on the [orange links](#) below if you would like to listen to the written sections read out loud.



## Step #1: Read and watch the video below about Family & Personal Relationships

*Audio Clip: [Click here to listen to the written section below.](#)*

How many of you would like to get married someday? Would you want to have kids? How do you plan to treat them? What do you think is the difference between “leading” a family and “raising” one? How would you define those terms?

In the very near future, most of you will be responsible for leading your own families. Please notice that I said “leading” your own families. I did not say “raising” your own families. The idea of “raising” a family has become too vague - something anybody can do. Just about anybody can produce a child, provide a room for it, feed it, clothe it, send it to school, haul it around, and marry it off! But the idea of “leading” a family has an altogether different meaning, because not just anybody who produces a child can be committed and faithful to his/her spouse. Not just anybody can put the needs and concerns of his/her family before his/her own needs, and not just anybody can have a vision for directing his/her family in an honorable way. That requires leadership! I firmly believe that if you cannot lead your family effectively, you will ultimately prove to be unfit for leadership on any level!

Let’s take a look at different ways we can help make family relationships more meaningful. The first one we’re going to look at is: **Affirming Skills**.

Lets take a look at this "Street Compliments" video (3:28):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OBgdoAmuwl>

## Step #2: Read below for more about Family & Personal Relationships

*Audio Clip: [Click here to listen to the written section below.](#)*

What do you think it means to affirm someone? Part of being an affirming person is learning how to genuinely care about others, and being able to convey it! If I really love you and care about you, but never tell you that, never verbalize that, does that do you any good? Of course, it doesn't! In fact, it reminds me of a story I heard about a couple who had been married for years. The wife was starting to get concerned about the relationship because her husband hadn't told her he loved her since she could remember! So one day, she worked up her courage and told him what she'd been feeling. He looked up at her, shook his head, and said, "Honey, I told you I loved you when we got married! If that had changed, I'd have told you so!"

If we really love and care about someone, we've got to tell him/her so every day! Life is so busy and hectic that many of the people we are around seem to not really care about how we're doing! We pass by people all the time and hear statements such as "How are you?" or "How have things been going with you?" Although it's more likely that you are hearing comments such as "What's up?" or "How's it going?" or "What's happening?" These comments are not insensitive or uncaring; it's just that we take so little time to listen to people, it sounds as though we don't really care!

Leaders need to be intentional in affirming people through a genuine affirmation.

How we look at a person, how we sound, how we sit, what we say, and how we say it all send major messages. I would imagine that each of us knows what it feels like having someone blow off what we're saying. Each of us has felt put-off or put-down by someone who just ignores our comments. I wonder - have any of you ever gone out on a date or to a restaurant with someone who's always looking over his/her shoulder and glad-handling everyone who walks by your table? It starts to feel as though you are on a date with a group! He's/She's getting up and saying "hi" to everyone they know, and you're not getting tended to! Or, worse yet, he/she sits there on his/her phone the whole time texting or checking social media and you feel like you're on a date by yourself!

**Listen.** Effective leaders create a safe environment in which others are able to speak freely. They make it safe for people to talk to them about any concern or idea they have.

Do you know what is just as important as communicating effectively? The complete opposite! Listening!

I was struck by a story I heard recently about a little boy. He was talking non-stop to a man, and the man was trying to slow him down a little bit. When the man finally did get the boy's attention, he said "Son, slow down a little bit. Now, what are you trying to say?" The boy's response was very revealing. He said, "I don't know, nobody really listens anyway!"

So many of us feel this way - that it doesn't matter what we say and that no one is listening anyway! Being a good listener involves many of the skills used for affirming. It is saying, "What you have to say is important, and I will pay attention to you!" And paying attention means stopping everything I'm doing, squaring up, and giving you my eye contact and my mind!

It means turning the T.V. and computer off and putting your phone away! I'll admit that this can be difficult for me, and especially when it's a championship sporting event or when one of my favorite

shows is on. It also means looking at and making meaningful eye contact with the other person. It means responding with more than a grunt! Have you noticed that many dads are experts at the fine art of grunting? But that just won't cut it in relationships! And finally, it means conveying to the other person that you are sincerely interested in what he/she has to say. When we're listening, we should be using all of the cues we learned in making a good first impression!

"Listening is one of the best ways to show respect."

### **Step #3: Take the Google Form Quiz linked below**

#### **Family & Personal Relationships Quiz**

Click on the link above to take the quiz. This quiz covers the written material on this viewable google doc as well as the one youtube video that is linked on this page. You may take the quiz as many times as you need to achieve the grade you want.

**Once you have finished taking the Family & Personal Relationships Quiz and received the grade you want, go back and mark this assignment on google classroom as done. Now, you are finished with the Teen Leadership lesson for the week!**