

"Thou Art But A Youth"
1 SAMUEL 17:33

Not Uncommon For Young People

- Lose interest in spiritual matters
- Pull away – become "distant"
- Start missing some – then quit attending
- Date, engaged and marry non-Christian
- Involved in alcohol or drugs
- Be lost to the world

God's Use Of Young People

▶ **David: To deliver Israel from the Philistines ...**

- ▶ Even though he (David) was "*but a youth.*" **1 Samuel 17:33**

God's Use Of Young People

▶ **Joseph: To save Israel in time of famine ...**

- ▶ Joseph seventeen when sold as a slave to Potiphar. **Genesis 37:2**

God's Use Of Young People

▶ **Josiah: To restore Judah to the true worship of God ...**

- ▶ When eight, Josiah became king. **2 Chronicles 34:1-2**
- ▶ When sixteen, he sought to serve God. **2 Chronicles 34:3**
- ▶ When twenty, he instituted religious reforms throughout Judah. **2 Chronicles 34:3**
- ▶ When twenty-six, he restored the temple, and the Passover. **2 Chronicles 34:8; 35:18-19**

God's Use Of Young People

▶ **Daniel: To reveal the sovereignty of God over the nations ...**

- ▶ Daniel, was possibly twelve to fifteen when taken into Babylonian captivity. **Daniel 1:3-5**
- ▶ He was fifteen to eighteen when brought to Nebuchadnezzar and began serving as his counselor. **Daniel 1:18-21**

God's Use Of Young People

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- ▶ **Timothy: To proclaim the gospel to the lost ...**
 - ▶ Selected by Paul to join him on his journeys. **Acts 16:1-3**
 - ▶ Twenty years later that Paul tells him to let no one despise his youth!
1 Timothy 4:12; Philippians 2:20

The Kind Of Young People God Can Use

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- ▶ **Those willing to flee immorality ...**
 - ▶ Joseph. **Genesis 39:7-12**
 - ▶ Timothy. **2 Timothy 2:22**

The Kind Of Young People God Can Use

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- ▶ **Those willing to trust in God ...**
 - ▶ David. cf. **1 Samuel 17:37,45-47**
 - ▶ David later said,
"As for God, his way is perfect; The word of Jehovah is tried; He is a shield unto all them that take refuge in him." **2 Samuel 22:31**

The Kind Of Young People God Can Use

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- ▶ **Those willing to seek the Lord with humility ...**
 - ▶ Josiah, when he was eight years old. **2 Chronicles 34:1,3; cf. verses 26-28**

The Kind Of Young People God Can Use

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- ▶ **Those willing to be true to their convictions ...**
 - ▶ Daniel, who refused to compromise his beliefs.
Daniel 1:8-9
 - ▶ Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego.
Daniel 3:1-6,20-21,17,25

The Kind Of Young People God Can Use

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- ▶ **Those willing to humbly submit to God's will ...**
 - ▶ Mary. **Luke 1:38**
 - ▶ Nothing is impossible. **Luke 1:34-37**

Our Responsibility To The Young

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- ▶ Don't place stumbling blocks in their way ... **Matthew 18:5-7**
- ▶ Encourage them ... **1 Corinthians 16:10-11**
- ▶ Despise them not ... **1 Timothy 4:12**

Conclusion

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- ▶ Jesus was 12 when he was about his Father's business. – **Luke 2:41-49**
- ▶ Are we about our Father's business?