

## ENGAGE YOUR FAITH BY...

### *1 Peter 2:9*

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

God's purposes and ways are perfect. Not only were we created by him, but we are designed to praise him with everything we are. Pray for your student avidly through these years. Pray that they would be reminded of God's love for them. Pray that others would show them his love and that they would feel equipped to be his light in a dark world.

## RESOURCES...

### > Web

[www.thetruth.com](http://www.thetruth.com)

[www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

[fightthenewdrug.org](http://fightthenewdrug.org)

### > Books

*False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction*

By Harry Schaumburg



MOUNTAINPARK  
CHURCH

# PARENTING MATTERS

# PURITY

9-11TH GRADE  
GIRLS & BOYS

## LIFE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE...

High School has always been seen as the time in a teenager's life to investigate new things and become more uninhibited. Historically, it is purity's greatest battleground. In many ways this battleground has moved to Middle School, and in High School parents are just picking up the pieces. Because of this, every student is in a different place in regards to their purity struggle. Some of the major purity struggles are currently centered around dating, vaping, and marijuana.

## YOU PARENT THEM WELL WHEN YOU...

### KNOW:

Current statistics show that by senior year, 37% of High School students will have tried vaping, 28% will have tried marijuana in some form, and 60% of students will have dated. While vaping and drug use are on a steady incline, dating is on a steady decline among High School students. These statistics show that not every student participates in vaping, marijuana and dating, but a large portion of their peers do, which significantly impacts them and their perceptions of the world.

### EXPECT:

Your student will likely be uncomfortable talking about dating or smoking with you. This doesn't mean you should avoid having these conversations. It simply means you may want to add some people to your team. Look for family, friends and mentors to partner with you and engage in these conversations as a team. Don't do it alone. Your student needs more witnesses to speak into their lives as they question the validity of your voice.

### PREPARE:

Don't expect you know everything. Do some reading and research and prepare before engaging in conversations with your student. Social life at school is different now due to technology and new social norms. Plan out how you will talk about each purity struggle. Be ready to listen to your student.

### TALK:

High School students need freedom. When you direct them to behave a specific way this can feel like it is a restriction their freedom. Listen to the way dating, vaping, and social marijuana use impacts them. Guide them through a conversation about how these things impact them, and how our faith impacts our interactions with these various topics. Talk about healthy boundaries. Specifically in dating, coach them on how to determine what expectations they may have for a significant other, and how to discover if those expectations will be met or not prior to dating. Discuss physical boundaries, and what to do if those boundaries are crossed. These will be difficult discussions but you are sowing seeds for more than just today.

## NEXT STEPS ARE...

### Preemptive Conversations

You have the opportunity to step into your students' world and help them navigate various purity struggles. The reality is other adults need to have conversations on purity with your student. However, make sure that you are the main voice in your student's life as this will help them take an active role in parenting later in their lives. Below are some discussion guides on purity topics.

**Dating** - Whether you believe dating in High School is appropriate or not, it is important to talk about it with your student. Their peers are dating, and it impacts their perceptions on relationships. It's also important to talk about sex with your teen. 46% of all High Schoolers have had sex. Don't expect others to teach them God's design and purpose for sex. Use the questions below to help guide your conversation.

- How many of your friends are in relationships right now?
- What are you looking for in a significant other? What would you want out of a relationship?
- What physical boundary would you want to have in a relationship?
- What ways can your relationship honor God?

**Vaping & Marijuana** - Vaping and Marijuana are both used heavily among High School aged students (30-40% report trying them at some point). With regards to vaping, most students who try it don't believe they are smoking harmful chemicals, yet major production companies have made it clear their products contain nicotine. With both vaping and marijuana usage, it is important to have conversations with your teen around why these are purity issues. Below are questions that can guide your conversation.

- Why do you think vaping and marijuana are popular?
- In what ways are they harmful?
- Have you seen students who vape or use marijuana move on to other drugs?
- In what ways do vaping and marijuana lead to impurity?

### Reactionary Conversations

It can be frustrating when we discover our student is participating in something we have taught them to be inappropriate. However, it is important to remain calm and open dialogue over the topic. This allows them to come to you when they face future struggles. Use these discussion guides in your conversations.

**Sex** - First, gain some context. Are they in a relationship? How long have they been having sex? Why did they start? Secondly, listen to what their motive was. Are they doing this for social reasons? Who wanted to? Reinforce why this is a purity issue by pointing toward scripture and God's design for sex in the context of marriage.

**Vaping & Marijuana** - If you find a vape pen or marijuana that belongs to your student, it's important to understand the why. Do they do this for social reasons or because of how it makes them feel? How regular is the use? Reinforce why this is a purity issue by reviewing scripture and God's command to obey the law. Discuss how participating in this is outside of the current law.