

good print and pictures. Get him to read and memorize. This can be encouraged by sword drills, games, competition. Don't just memorize isolated verses but do passages, chapters--also hymns and facts. Stress reverence in singing, praying, giving, and listening. This is a time for decision and church membership so stress evangelism. A Jewish child became a son of the law at 12 or 13. Many date their conversion from childhood. Childhood is often followed by a period of religious decline. Many drop out of S.S. soon after this period, but child conversions are usually permanent conversions. See II Tim. 3:14-17. It is also true that decisions for Christ in childhood prepare the way for other important decisions later--such as career, marriage, and family. Dr. F.F. Peterson says: "1) Win for Christ in childhood

- 2) Secure life decisions in high school
- 3) Train for life service in college."

6. Early Adolescence (14-16) Teens--Jr. High Schoolers. This is a great transition period. There is accelerated growth. Girls invariably are at least a year ahead of boys. Turbulent mixture of tendencies and counter-tendencies. He wants to believe like a child but he treated like an adult.
 - a. The principal characteristic is change--
 - (1) Change in body (rapid but uneven--girls faster from 13-14; boys from 14-15) There is generally high vitality with a low death rate.
 - (2) Change in ideals. He penetrates the outward act to catch the spirit within--sees worth of truth, faith, and self-sacrifice. He is very ambitious but this is temporary. He needs understanding older friends--father or teacher.
 - (3) Change in pursuits--desires to quit school and go to work (90% enter on lifework irrespective of fitness)
 - (4) Change in disposition. Moods go from one extreme to another. Likes and dislikes are very strong. He is intemperate. Finds it difficult to resist temptation. Needs sympathy and understanding. His teacher must be able to take criticism, present a calm, placid, patient disposition mingled with charity and humor. He needs regularity and calm in his environment.
 - (5) His principal mental characteristic is criticism. This is because his reasoning powers are coming to the fore--not enough to be told, he needs to know why. So his education should include wide variety of subjects, should deal with knowledge en masse. Generalize. Intellectual capacities not stimulated or started at this point may be lost.
 - (6) The principal social characteristic is companionship (However there is a desire for solitude as well as society at this time. There is also a desire for public approbation tempered by shyness.)
 - (a) He needs companionship at home and yet there is a growing spirit of independence. He needs respect and encouragement.
 - (b) In his leisure he likes companionship in groups. At school in societies. In church in Y.P. or organized classes with social events. (65% of girls, 75% of boys drop out of church at this age.) Besides social events, have business meetings, and service programs.
 - (7) The principal spiritual characteristic is conversion. Conversions reach their peak. There are 7 times as many as 10 years later. This involves the personality and forestalls incorrigibility. Regeneration recognizes God in the universe and in control of our lives. Conversion then, makes religion the great controlling motive of adolescence and prepares him to pass from parental control to divine government. "A God-controlled life never requires police control."