

What to Say AND When to Say It

Pornography, gender confusion/dysphoria, same-sex attraction, masturbation, peer pressure, the casual hookup culture, the "sex talk"... these are hard topics! Like every parent that's ever lived, we nervously wonder about sexual conversations: "What should I talk about with my kids?" and "When should I talk to them?"

The following is based on HARVEST USA's seminar, *Raising Sexually Faithful Kids*



Young Children (Ages 2-7)

The Grammar Stage: Introducing

- Teach the parts of the body and their function
- Teach safety and appropriate privacy about touching
- Affirm your child's gender: God created us male and female
- Be wise about technology usage and access
- Begin conversations on sex and sexuality (like answering questions "Where do babies come from?" in age-appropriate ways: see Birds & Bees material for this age stage and the next stage, Older Children and Tweens)



Older Children & Tweens (Ages 8-12)

The Logic Stage: Teaching

- Deepen conversations on sex and sexuality (specifics about body parts, mechanics, etc.)
- Shepherd into puberty: discussing body changes and the emergence of sexual desire
- Introduce the dangers of pornography
- Solidly implement safe technology usage
- Affirm marriage between a man and a woman
- Teach about sexual brokenness in all its forms
- Teach respect for all people while affirming biblical norms



Teens (Ages 13-18)

The Rhetoric Stage: Dialogue

- Increased focus on discussions about sexuality with same-gender parent (when possible)
- Increased openness about their current challenges and your sexual history (relating appropriately as they grow older toward adulthood)
- Engage discussions on culture and Scripture
- Find out what they really believe
- Encourage them to follow Christ and Scripture
- Assist them when they stumble and fall, and encourage openness with others in the Body for help
- Show the need for daily dependence on Christ for sexual integrity

