

# Dynamic Parenting: Ten Keys From a Student's Perspective

## **Bottom Line**

This session was a testimony and tribute to homeschool parents that live every day in the trenches, on their knees for their children, while fighting for the generations to come. To you we owe our lives and future!

Home educated from the ground up, Woody, his brothers, and his parents experienced the ups, downs and all-a-rounds of homeschool life...and they ALL lived to tell about it! Interspersed throughout this talk, Woody shared some tangible action points that parents can immediately implement as God leads.

In addition, this information is based on a compilation of a survey of students all giving perspective on what meant the most to them about their parents.

## **Introduction**

Woody has a high respect for his parents. Growing up, he thought parenting would be easy, but the older he gets, the more he realizes just how hard it is.

Some people wouldn't mind having nine lives, but once you go through the process of growing up or raising kids, you don't want to go through it again!

## **Woody's Story**

Woody started public school at the age of seven. His mom was a public school teacher. He started out as the angel of the class, but, by the first grade, he became the bully of the playground.

His parents decided to homeschool him from the second grade on and saw big changes. At 17, he went to Moscow, Russia for 3.5 months and then started working with IBLP (CI, Law, Assistant to the president, headed a department). At 24 and 25, Woody stepped back to seriously assess whether he needed a degree. He had job opportunities and didn't think college was possible (too expensive, too much time).



**As a first generation homeschool graduate, Woody Robertson has been where most students are now and desires to help them wisely answer some of life's biggest questions concerning their future. A frequent motivational speaker at conferences nationwide, Woody thrives in rallying and organizing teams, families, and students for greater efficiency and impact in our culture today. In 2006, he earned his accredited BSBA in General Management in 18 months and now resides in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Gina: the girl of his dreams!**

Our  
Founding  
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## **Raising Children vs. Raising Children to Be Adults**

### Current Stats

- More adults (ages eighteen to forty-nine) watch the Cartoon Network than watch CNN.
- The average video gamer was eighteen in 1990; now he's going on thirty.
- The National Academy of Sciences has redefined adolescence as the period extending from the onset of puberty, around twelve, to age thirty.
- Today, the average age for marriage is 28.1 (men) and 25.9 (women). It was 20 in 1950.

Today's Gen Y (Born 1980-2000) is a far cry from past generations. Here are some of Gen Y's key traits:

- Short-term minded
- Want things to happen fast
- Used to things being given them
- Coddled and idealistic
- Little commitment
- No long-term plan or vision
- Live paycheck to paycheck

### **Looking Back**

#### The Founding Fathers

Our Founding Fathers provide excellent proof of children who were raised to be adults:

- Alexander Hamilton: graduated at age 18. He became Washington's Chief of Staff and a Lt. Col at age 22.
- Aaron Burr: graduated with his A.B. in theology at Princeton University at age 16. He was in law school 2 years later.

# Encourage a vibrant relationship with God

- Light Horse Harry Lee: graduated from Princeton at age 17. He returned home to prepare for war, was promoted quickly at age 19 and was 21 during the retreat from New York.
- Thomas Jefferson: graduated from college at age 16. He was 33 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

## 10 Keys to Parenting

This information is a compilation of a survey of students all giving perspective on what meant the most to them and what contributed most to their success growing up.

### 1. Focus on the Their Heart

- Make the goal maturity, not perfection.  
Parents don't pretend to be perfect and don't expect their child to be either.  
Expectation is that their child be growing and thriving, rather than perfect.
- Encourage a vibrant relationship with God.  
Parents are living examples for their children.
- Understand your child's heart, passions, and purpose.
- Don't focus on looking good, focus on the heart

### 2. Focus on Building Character

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men" Proverbs 22:29.  
Help your child develop good character

- Diligence
- Creativity
- Initiative
- Enthusiasm
- Wisdom
- Honor

If you expect  
your child to  
be perfect,  
they will  
expect you  
to be perfect.

If you expect your child to be perfect, they will expect you to be perfect. Rebellion will most likely result from this one-sided relationship.

Inspire a work ethic which rewards responsibility. Give responsibility.

3. Train Your Child in the Basics

Help your child gain knowledge about what matters

- Knowledge: general intelligence, understanding, knowledge of Christian religion, and moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living according to the Word of God

Math (Algebra II)

Writing

Science (biology and chemistry)

Computer skills (typing, MS Office)

Encourage reading and music instruction

4. Encourage Strong Communication Skills

Help your child:

- Learn to communicate a professional image
- "Dress for Success" says you have 5 seconds to make your first impression.
- Learn to engage in conversation with all people groups
- Learn to ask questions
- Look for public speaking opportunities
- Read great books, meet great people, engage in great discussions

5. Help Them Find Internships/Apprenticeships

How did our Founding Fathers learn? Your child will learn best through on the job training. The most literate, gifted, brilliant generation in our nation's history learned through internships and apprenticeships.

- Look for opportunities in your child's field of interest:

Friends

People in your community/church

Relatives

Mentors  
guide,  
question,  
and give  
counsel.

## 6. Encourage Mentor Seeking

Mentors allow your child to learn from the mistakes and successes of others. It gives them the opportunity to experience life-to-life impact. Find experts in subjects who can train your child.

Mentors guide, question, and give counsel. They also:

- Encourage
- Praise
- Shower advice
- Warn
- Set the example

Here are some great questions for your child to ask potential mentors:

- "You've been successful at this field when so many others have failed. What made the difference for you?"
- "If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently?"
- "What are the five books you have found most helpful in this field?"
- "Do you have a yearly planning process? If so, how does it work?"
- "How do you manage your time successfully?"
- "What questions have I not asked that I should be asking?"

## 7. Inspire Your Child and Believe in Them

Inspire your child by saying things like:

- "You can do it"
- "We believe in you"
- "You were trained for this"
- "There's no one else in this world that could do a better job"

In sports, they say  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the battle is controlling the mind;  $\frac{1}{4}$  is skill. Confidence has a huge amount to do with students taking on risks and challenge.

Mothers  
nurture, train,  
and protect  
their children.  
Dads help  
them become  
men to  
nurture and  
protect  
others.

#### 8. Encourage the Courtship Spirit

- Encourage children to wait for relationships or marriage until they're prepared.  
"Prepare your work without and make it fit for yourself, and then go and build your house" (Proverbs 24:27).
- Encourage them to enter into purposeful relationships  
Intent to discern God's will
- Encourage accountability and protection

#### 9. Realize the Importance of the Father's Involvement

It is the father's responsibility to know the heart of his children.  
Fathers can offer:

- Purpose: My dad spent time with me to know me.
- Perspective: My dad showed by his example that his family came first. I always knew that my dad thought his family was more important than anything else. Racquetball story (playing better).
- Protection: My father stood as a bulwark of protection for our family.
- Praise: Dad didn't get a lot of praise growing up. He did get a lot of criticism. He wasn't effusive in his praise, but he never, ever gave needless criticism.
- Pummeling: If you have boys, please know that it is essential that their dads wrestle with them regularly

Statistics show that mothers nurture, train, and protect their children.  
Dads help them become men to nurture and protect others.

#### 10. **Understand the Concept of Proper Release**

As parents, it's so important that once you have raised your child to be an adult, you let them be an adult!

- Chain of Command to Chain of Counsel=Obedience to Honor
- Incremental release with high expectations
- Set clear expectations

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

—Matthew 6:33

### **The Key to Success**

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### **Five Characteristics of a Finisher**

- A hunger for God: desperate for God
- A joyful spirit: intimacy with God
- A single minded purpose: knowing God is your only option
- An overcomer vs. a victim
- Ability to make right decisions that will enable ending strong

### **For More Information**

- The Underground History of Education, John Gatto
- A Thomas Jefferson Education, Oliver Demille
- Accelerated Distance Learning, Brad Voeller
- Disrupting Class, Clayton M Christiansen
- The Life Purpose Planning Workbook, [lifepurposeplanning.org](http://lifepurposeplanning.org)

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