

NEEDS OF YOUNG ADULTS

The decade of 16 to 26-years-old is a major time of change and life-determining direction. Chances are that 6 out of 10 of the biggest events of our lives happen from ages 16 to 26—e.g., graduation from high school and college, driving, dating, marriage, first child, career choice, fired, first car, first home, war, family loss. The following five needs are not unique to this decade but seem to be more pronounced.

- Moments of intense loneliness—the itinerant nature of this time of life leads to times of lots of friends and stretches with no friends. Loss of community roots happens most during this time.
- Mini-mid life crisis—things they thought were going to happen or work out are not happening as they hoped; dealing with the emptiness of what they hoped for.
- Baby choice-makers—first time with the ability to make their own decisions under their own roof; this newness will result in plenty of mistakes/sin.
- Sowing and reaping of character and sin problems—their issues are now growing into adult problems with serious consequence; we need to help in these moments and not be entertained by the drama.
- Relationships with a generation ahead of them sharing the whys, hows, and lessons from their lives—they don't need inconsistency, exaggerations, or busy responses from those they need to learn from; they need friendship, honest love as a peer, patience, and an example of faith in God.

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