



# Workers at Home: Managing the Home with Teens

by Bonnie Detwiler

**Panel:** Elaine Hughes, Pam Schaedel, Margaret Sterr

*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom  
and knowledge of God! How unsearchable  
are his judgments, and unfathomable his ways!*

Romans 11:33

## I. Scriptural reasons why we manage our homes

Because we have been given the mandate to be keepers at home – **Proverbs 31:27**, *She (the virtuous woman) looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.* and we were created to be helpers to our husbands – **Proverbs 14:1**, *The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.*

## II. What does “manage” mean?

To organize; to control; to watch; and to direct. I like to think that we organize the family’s belongings; we help to control attitudes and behavior; we help to watch the finances; and we direct traffic in and out of our homes.

## III. Is there a right way or wrong way to direct your home?

No! It is what works best for your circumstances. But we want to give you some practical suggestions and stories as they have happened by God’s grace in our lives. This is where the **wisdom and knowledge of God** come in.

Possibly we will help you to continue discerning what **God’s ways** are for you – in your home!

#### IV. Practical reasons why we manage our homes:

- At times management can be frustrating and overwhelming, but as we work with our teens, there is great satisfaction and fulfillment!
- One of the best ways to instill good practices into teens' lives is repetition.
- Habits become character.

The substance of our hearts means more than the appearance of our homes.

See that your teens take pride in their home and invite their friends.

Teens' neatness begins when they are children.

Make chores around the house FUN!

Be creative and not overbearing.

Work together as a family.

## V. Four Areas of Interest

1. As our families grow in size and age, we go through change. Some days that makes **keeping up our homes** nearly impossible. How did you handle that?

## Some things to think about

- “Keep life simple”
- Consider priorities according to the teen’s health, ability, gift, or talent.
- Young people should learn to say “no” when overloaded.
- They should consider the consequences.

2. Since life in Greenville, especially around BJU and as members at MCBC, is full of opportunities, how did you **balance** your young peoples’ **activities** accordingly?

## Some things to consider

- Should your teen have his own car?
- Does he need the latest and best in technology?
- Does he or she pay for his own personal desires after we have taken care of their basic needs?

**3.** The next area of decision-making we want to share is the **finances** in our homes while we have teenagers. Do we as parents give them an allowance? Do they hold down part-time jobs? Do we teach them to rely solely on the Lord's provision?

4. If you knew 10 years ago what you know now, **what would you have done differently** in managing your home?



## VI. Questions?

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