

# Godly Youth

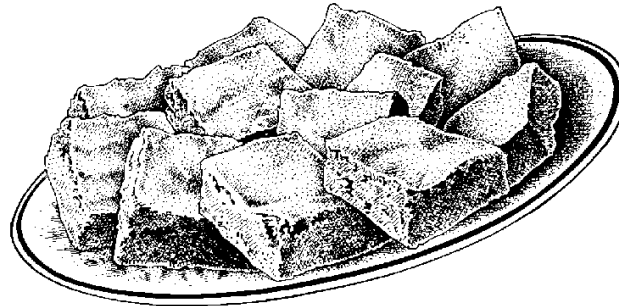
*Young in Age, Strong in Heart*

## Dad's Brownies (Author Unknown)

A father of some teenage children had the family rule that they could not attend PG-13 or R rated movies. His three teens wanted to see a particular popular movie that was playing at local theaters. It was rated PG-13. The teens interviewed friends and even some members of their family's church to find out what was offensive in the movie.

The teens made a list of pros and cons about the movie to use to convince their dad that they should be allowed to see it. The con's were that it contained ONLY 3 swear words, the ONLY violence was a building exploding (and you see that on TV all the time they said), and you actually did not "see" the couple in the movie having sex - it was just implied sex, off camera.

The pros were that it was a



popular movie - a block buster. Everyone was seeing it. If the teens saw the movie then they would not feel left out when their friends discussed it. The movie contained a good story and plot. It had some great adventure and suspense in it. There were some fantastic special effects in this movie.

The movie's stars were some of the most talented actors in Hollywood. It probably would be nominated for several awards. Many of the members of their Christian church had even seen the

movie and said it wasn't "very bad". Therefore, since there were more pros than cons the teens said they were asking their father to reconsider his position on just this ONE movie and let them have permission to go see it.

The father looked at the list and thought for a few minutes. He said he could tell his children had spent some time and thought on this request. He asked if he could have a day to think about it before making his decision. The teens were thrilled thinking, "Now

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## Pray for: Government Leaders

If you listen to the news or study current events in school, you know that there is trouble with different nations in the world. The government has to protect us from terrorists as well as protect many of our rights. Government leaders have many great responsibilities and the Bible tells us to pray for them, 1 Timothy 2:2.

We should pray that they make decisions that allow us to live as Christians without persecution from the government or any other person. We should also pray for the

leaders of the world governments that they would allow their people to worship God freely; not all people enjoy our freedom to worship God as He commanded.

We should also pray that God will give them wisdom in their many difficult decisions. We should pray that they will decide the things that will bring peace, not war. If we have to go to war, we pray that the war will end quickly with few deaths. We should pray for them to make decisions that will benefit all people and allow them to live right.

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*" [They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

*Acts 17:11*



### Lessons from Haggai

- We must not let anything keep us from keeping God's will
- Just as Israel should have built the temple instead of focusing on their houses, we must put the work of the Lord in the church above all things.
- God will forgive those who repent of wickedness



***“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”***

## Meeting the Prophets: Haggai

Haggai (pronounced like hay-gay-eye) prophesied during the time when Israel had come back from Babylonian bondage and were living in Jerusalem. They had begun building the temple of God but stopped when some of the people in the land told the king over the land—Darius, the king of Persia—that the Jews were up to no good.

The Jewish people should have told the king that they were rebuilding the temple because a previous Persian king allowed them to do it, but they remained silent for a time.

During the time when they stopped building the temple, the continued to build their houses and some lived in very fine homes. However, God's

house, the temple, was still in ruins. Haggai told the people to rebuild the temple. He rebuked them for living in such fine houses when God's house had not been rebuilt.

Haggai told the people to consider their ways. He wanted them to think about how they were living and how they chose to disobey God. He reminded them that though they had planted much seed on their farms, they did not have large harvests, they did not have enough water, and they were poorly clothed. Haggai said that these things came upon them because they were not following God.

The people listened to Haggai and they came together to finish the

house of the Lord. When Solomon built the first temple, it was a beautiful building, very large, with great riches inside and out. Of course, Israel was much poorer now and the temple would not look as beautiful as the temple Solomon built. But God promised them that He would be pleased with it and He would fill it with His glory. The important thing was not how beautiful it was, but that God was there with them.

God promised to cleanse the people when they repented and to protect them from their enemies. Though they had been punished for their wickedness God would welcome them back when they turned to Him. God would watch over them.

### What Do You Think She Should Do?

Rhoda has several good friends at church. She enjoys going to class with them and spending time with them outside of the services.

However, one thing has been bothering her. When they are in the worship service they usually sit on their own pew. Often, her friends will point to other people in the church, whisper a joke, and giggle. They will whisper the joke down the line so that all know it. They may giggle at the song leader for leading the song too high or low, or something said in the prayer.

During the sermon, her friends will often write notes to one another, draw pictures, and whisper. She does not think it is proper behavior when they are supposed to be worshipping God. What should she do?

### Who Am I?

1. Stephen and I, along with five other men were appointed to take care of some Christian widows who were not being fed.
2. I went on to preach in a place called Samaria and many people followed Jesus.
3. I baptized a sorcerer, named Simon, who gave up his fake magic when he saw the true wonders of God.
4. I also baptized the treasurer of Ethiopia as he traveled home from Jerusalem.

*Do you know who I am? (Answer below)*

*I am Phillip the Evangelist!*

## Word Search: Parables

S T E L N T A L E N T S O M G L M  
 O L W D E B T O R S D J L D S B U  
 W T M C D R Y S V I P P E L O V S  
 E R T S E R V T O L E A V E N I T  
 R E M U D F D S U W A L S H S R A  
 A A H P S M E H D M R F D B I L R  
 H S N P P D A E J G L A F H L G D  
 K U M E A S B E N H K O I D W E S  
 G R S R D M N P R O D I G A L B E  
 T E Z C V X W T H E A C D F T E E  
 N D M A R R I A G E F E A S T L D  
 V I R G I N S E N S T E W A R D S

### Word List

SOWER	DEBTORS	LOST SHEEP	PRODIGAL	VIRGINS
SUPPER	LEAVEN	MUSTARD SEED	MARRIAGE FEAST	
TREASURE	SONS	TALENTS	STEWARDS	PEARL

### Memory Verse: Luke 11:33

*“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light.”*

Jesus commands His followers to be good examples in the world. Sometimes people in the world will make fun of us for what we believe. Because of this, some people are shy about letting others know that they are Christians. They may not stand up for what is right or not live as they should.

Jesus said that we are like lamps. Before the days of

electricity, when one wanted to see at night, he would light a candle or oil lamp. In order to get the best use of the lamp he would put it on a tall lampstand so the light would spread throughout the house.

If he hid the lamp, the room would remain dark. If he hid it under a basket a little light might get out but not enough to make a difference.

Those who love God should be proud to let others know that they are trying to do what is right, but not by acting arrogant. We must make sure our speech is clean, that we tell the truth, and that we dress properly. We should tell others about Jesus and invite them to church. We must try to do what Jesus would do when we make our decisions. Let your light shine brightly!



## Dad's Brownies (Continued)

we've got him! Our argument is too good! Dad can't turn us down!" So, they happily agreed to let him have a day to think about their request.

The next evening the father called in his three teenagers, who were smiling smugly, into the living room. There on the coffee table he had a plate of brownies. The teens were puzzled. The father told his children he had thought about their request and had decided that if they would eat a brownie then he would let them go to the movie. But just like the movie, the brownies had pros and cons.

The pros were that they were made with the finest chocolate and other good ingredients. They had the added special effect of yummy walnuts in them. The brownies were moist and fresh with wonderful chocolate frosting on top. He had made these fantastic brownies using an award winning recipe. And best of all, the brownies had been made lovingly by the hand of their own father.

The brownies only had one con. He had included a little bit of a special ingredient. The brownies also contained just a little bit of dog poop. But he had mixed the dough well - they probably would not even be able to taste the dog poop and he had baked it at 350 degrees so any bacteria or germs from the dog poop had probably been destroyed. Therefore, if any of his children could stand to eat the brownies which included just a "little bit of poop" and not be effected by it, then he knew they would also be able to see the movie with "just a little bit of smut" and not be effected.

Of course, none of the teens would eat the brownies and the smug smiles had left their faces. Only Dad was smiling smugly as they left the room. Now when his teenagers ask permission to do something he is opposed to the father just asks, "Would you like me to whip up a batch of my special brownies?"

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I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at [rhodes.davis@comcast.net](mailto:rhodes.davis@comcast.net) or write to the address below.

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c/o Northwood church of Christ  
P.O. Box 416  
Northport, AL 35476

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER  
JUST FOR YOU!

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