

# The Riedy Reader

## July 2019



I recently heard a podcaster talk about when she had babies and toddlers she thought it was the hardest time in parenting,...until she had teens! I am sure everyone's parenting experiences are different, but that is not exactly how I would put it. There is nothing more physically exhausting than the lack of sleep



that comes with a new baby, or chasing around a toddler. The teen years don't compare to that! But I would certainly agree that these teen/young adult years can be more mentally and emotionally exhausting. Having everyone under the same roof this summer has been GREAT, but it has upped the volume of our home in many different ways. The laughter has been louder, the bickering more frequent, and the drama and occasional tears woven throughout. There have also been quite a few deep, probing discussions about everything from politics, social issues, and living out a Christian faith in a crazy world.

This Fall, we will be one step closer to 'adult children' with Brenna headed off to college. We will miss her very much, and it is possible that any of our girls may live back home for a bit after college but still...we are getting closer to the end of our 940 Saturdays. What do I mean by that? To quote a 2012 New York Times article, "Nine hundred and forty Saturdays...Between the day your child is born, and the time he or she turns 18, you get 940 Saturdays — and 260 of them... are gone by her fifth birthday." What are my two pieces of advice to a mom who was closer to her 600th Saturday (teen years)? I would tell her, "small failures at home are better than big failures on their own" and "God is big enough to take your child's wrestling and doubts." Let me explain:

**Small Failures**—when our girls were little, we tried to make the best decisions for them and put a lot of protective barriers around them. As they grow, it isn't like we just throw all that out, but we do try to put more decisions into their hands. They have more control over their purchases and sometimes spend more in a month than they intend. When they realize that they overspent by \$20 and learn how NOT to do that, it may save them from running up \$2000 debt later in life. Another example, just this January we stopped insisting that Brenna put her phone outside her bedroom at night. In college, she will have



### Riedy Road Trip—KY and MI, 9/3—9/15



We would love to connect with YOU! Contact us to get together, and look here next month for some group possibilities!

We drop Brenna off for Character Camp (Freshman orientation) at College of the Ozarks on August 16th, Charissa begins her last semester there the following week, Amanda helps to run a Speech & Debate camp August 27-30, and we hit the road the following Monday. It will be strange traveling with just one of our girls, but we look forward to seeing many of YOU!

Pray for us as we make these adjustments and plan this trip!

access to her phone in her dorm room so we wanted her to learn to regulate herself. After one night of finding herself waking up multiple times to check phone notifications, she has updated her settings to not disturb her sleep. This is much better than a 'big failure' that could have impacted her college grades.

**God is big enough**—When our girls were young, we could answer most any question they could throw our way. As they have grown, their questions have grown as well. And even if we do feel like we have the answer, they may need to seek out their own answers anyway. I always want to be available to talk to, but I also want them to know that God is big enough to handle their biggest questions. I often feel like I need to stand in the middle and 'defend God', but in order for our girls to make their faith their own they need to know they can go to God with their questions and struggles.

I'm sure we have made plenty of mistakes, but those are the two pieces of advice I'd give to parents heading into the teen years: "small failures at home are better than big failures on their own" and "God is big enough to take your child's wrestling and doubts."

In looking for advice about our upcoming season, I found a FamilyLife article titled ["When Your 18 Summers are Up"](#)

**Keep talking:** Be sure to tell your child you still want to be in the know about his life. Make it a point to call him at least once a week. Text him every couple of days to see how he's doing. Try to stay away from the instructive tone, "Did you do your homework?" Go more for, "Tell me about the new friends you met in Comp 1."

**Keep visiting:** Look at the next school year's calendar with your child. Plan at least one weekend each semester when you will visit her. Don't always be waiting for her to show up at your door with a load of laundry or needing a home-cooked meal. It'll be fun for you and speak love to her if you make the effort to get to know her in her new setting.

**Keep expecting:** When he lived in your house, you had rules he had to live by. He may not live with you anymore, but keep expecting him to abide by standards he's committed himself to. Remind him that his years away at school are for maturing and growing up, not for wasting until real adult life arrives. Help him remember that personal boundaries and high standards will get him where he wants to go.

**Keep praying:** You can't watch over your child's every move anymore. But you can release her to the God who made her and who will be with her wherever she goes. There's nothing more loving a mother can do than to pray for her child. If you haven't regularly prayed for your child throughout the years, it's not too late to start even though your 18 summers are up.

## Eric & Deb

## Tear & Prayer



**Pray for the Riedy Family**  
Serving in Arkansas with

**FAMILYLIFE**  
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Eric  
Deb  
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**Pray** for Cru19 in Fort Collins, CO July 19-26—for Eric, Amanda, & I as we travel & attend, & for Brenna & Charissa as they stay in AR to work. Also, **Pray** for the staff planning this huge event & the ~6000 Cru staff who will participate

**Pray** for my final weeks of recovery -I hope to be cleared for all activity at my Aug 7th appointment

**Pray** for upcoming adjustments for our girls- Brenna beginning college, Charissa looking toward Dec. graduation, and Amanda being the only homeschooler left at the Riedy Girls School!

**Praise** for a GREAT spring Weekend to Remember season-look for highlights next month

**Praise** for David Robbins having a chance to share with all of Cru at this upcoming conference