

LETTERS FOR KIDS

Dear Amy,

My parents always want me to go places with them but I would rather be with my friends. I've had it with this togetherness bit. How can I convince them that I don't enjoy family outings anymore. - Olda Nuff

Dear Amy,

My mother insists that I go to church every Sunday, but my dad never goes, so why should I? Now that I'm older I think I should be allowed to make up my own mind about God, church, and all that stuff. - Tired of Sunday School

Dear Amy,

Our Bible School teacher says every family should study the Bible and pray together, but our family never seems to have the time for that. Isn't going to church together good enough? - Busy Betsy

Dear Amy,

My parents don't like my friends. Whenever I want to go places with my friends, Mom and Dad ask me all kinds of questions. I don't think they trust me either! How can I persuade them to let me go out with whom I want to? - Ina Cage

Dear Amy,

I try to talk to my parents about some of my problems but when I do I usually just get a lecture. How can I make them see that sometimes I just need to talk and do not want their advice? - Lecture Hater

Dear Amy,

My parents are always talking to me about being a minister or a missionary. I am very interested in mathematics and would like to study engineering. How can I talk to them about this without hurting their feelings? I think I can be a good Christian in whatever vocation I choose. - Undecided

LETTERS FOR MOTHERS

Dear Amy,

My husband and I became Christians as adults, but we want our children to let Christ be their guide during their teen years. Our daughter says we're trying to cram religion down her throat. How can we help her understand that she needs Christ now? - Worried Parents

Dear Amy,

I try to spend time with my son and talk to him but when I ask him questions about school, friends, etc. he just clamms up. How can I get him to talk over his daily activities as well as his problems? - Clam's Mother

Dear Amy,

My husband and I try to have open communication with our daughter. However, it seems that lately she comes to me with her problems but refuses to talk with her father. He resents this and thinks I'm encouraging her in this direction. Please help. - Caught in the Middle

Dear Amy,

My husband and I come from very different backgrounds and our ideas on child rearing are very different. We seem to be always at odds on rules for the children, punishments, etc. How can we change this? Our children are confused and so are we. - Nita Solution

Dear Amy,

I try to establish good communication with my family by listening to them, asking questions, and encouraging my children to talk about school, etc., and my husband to talk about his work. But nobody listens to me. I want to talk about my activities, too, but no one seems interested. Please advise me. - Wanda Talk Too

LETTERS FOR FATHERS

Dear Amy,

I am bewildered by the way things in the world have changed! When I was a kid life was simple and parents' word was the law. Kids today seem to be living fast and furious. My children think my standards are old-fashioned and impossible to live by in today's society. How can we get together on standards for our family to live by? - Old-Fashioned Dad

Dear Amy,

I'd like to spend more time with my kids but I have a demanding job that requires a lot of overtime. I also try to participate in community affairs and do as much as possible for the church. There simply aren't enough hours in the day for me, yet I realize that my children are growing up fast. What do you suggest? - Full-Schedule Dad

Dear Amy,

My wife and I cannot agree on how to deal with our son. I think she is too soft on him and too sympathetic. He's never going to learn to take it out in the world if we're too easy on him at home. How can I convince her of this? - Ex-Marine Dad

Dear Amy,

My daughter and I used to be very close. We talked a lot and did a lot of things together. But now she's in high school and she seems to have changed completely. She seldom talks to me anymore and seems to spend more and more time away from home. What can I do? - Losing the Apple of My Eye