

# God chose YOU from the beginning

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

## Facts of Life

### Creation/Identity

Common ways teens display identity issues:

- seeking status symbols
- forbidden "grown-up" behaviors
- rebellion
- idols
- cliques

### Intellectual Disabilities

- Over 7 million people in the U.S. have an intellectual disability (e.g., Down syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or Fragile X syndrome).
- Many adults with disabilities live independently, are employed, maintain relationships, and worship in their communities.

### Surprise Pregnancy

- Among pregnant women 15-44 years of age in 2011, nearly half (45%) were surprise pregnancies.
- Of those 2.8 million surprise pregnancies, only 58% were born. Aside from the small percentage of miscarriages, the remaining surprise pregnancies were aborted.

# His Word

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16



## Our Christian Response

### Modeling

- Model a Christ-identity.
- Lifestyle habits (e.g., attend church and read the Bible):
  - Manage stress and disappointments (e.g., prayer and consulting Christian leaders).
  - Encourage (e.g., praise and celebrate successes).
  - Promote healthy habits (e.g., nutritious meals and good sleep).
  - Good boundaries (e.g., truth with love and forgiveness).

### Respecting

- Demonstrate respect for individuals with disabilities:
- Get down to eye level.
  - Speak directly with the individual.
  - Use simple language and concrete terms.
  - Give clear examples.
  - Maintain an adult tone of voice instead of ]one used when speaking to a child.
  - When assessing for understanding, ask for comparisons or summaries rather than "Do you understand? Yes or no?"

### Caring

- Follow the call to care for mother and child:
- Treat the mother with honor and compassion.
  - Aid the mother in her distress.
  - Do not despise the little ones but protect and provide for them.
  - Teach mother and child to know the Lord.
  - Trust in the Lord above all things.

