

## TEENS CAN BE EQUIPPED TO THRIVE!

### *Selected Scriptures*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** This is week three in our series called *Equipping the Next Generation and the Leaders who Serve Them*. As our series began, I presented our overall vision: We who lead in *this* generation aim to equip kids and teens in the *next* generation to thrive in their relationship with Jesus. In week one, we examined a fascinating subplot the gospels where Jesus equipped the kids to recognize him as Messiah. He was effective! When he entered Jerusalem in triumph, the kids were there, in force, on the temple mount, worshipping him as the Son of David. They got it! Then last week, I presented a seven-step model for discipling a child so that he or she might launch into the world with purpose and strength. This week we focus on teens. In this message, I aim to demonstrate that teens can *not only be* equipped, but they can go further and higher than we can possibly imagine, if we will take the time to mentor them. To do this, I'll present five stories of five teens who thrived under the guidance of an adult or strong peers. My hope is that through these examples, you might be inspired to invest generously in ministry to teens. Some will immerse themselves in direct ministry. Others will support the work necessary for those ministries to succeed. But together, we can transform the next generation. Let's look at the five teens that thrived.

### 1. Story: Five teens who thrived

- David – *1 Samuel 16-17*
- Daniel – *Daniel 1-3*
- Esther – *Esther 4:14-16*
- An unnamed teenager – *John 6:5-9*

- Four teenage girls – *Acts 21:8-9*

## 2. *Idea*

## 3. *Takeaways*