

## Foreword

Today multitudes of young people in many nations are being swept into God's Kingdom. These new believers need Biblical teaching and good role models to help them be faithful to God. The temptations and struggles that adolescents face today are very different to what previous generations have encountered. The enemy has targeted them for destruction, but the King has claimed them for His purposes! Although many young people today are fatherless and without hope for a positive future, they are now getting acquainted with God as their Father, are learning to trust His faithfulness, and are realizing that they have a promising future in Him.

Our goal in writing *Relating to an Awesome God!* is to equip believers who are willing to love young people sacrificially so that they can fulfill God's purposes for their lives. Today's youth need more than mere instructors. They need spiritual mothers and fathers who care for their wellbeing and are committed to protecting them from danger. They need leaders and mentors who will challenge them to have a vision for their existence. Young people need to be called away from wasting their lives on lesser things and called into lives of pursuing God. They need to see how God views them and what potential He sees in them. Adolescents, like people of every age, are commanded to love the Lord with all of their hearts, souls, minds and strength! It is our prayer that this manual will help them do just that.

*Relating to an Awesome God!* is a discipleship tool aimed at helping young people develop a personal and passionate relationship with God through "listening prayer" and exciting Bible study. It deals with issues that teens and young adults face, such as emotional upheavals, sexual purity, and building healthy relationships. It offers direction for overcoming envy, jealousy, depression, anger and fear. It also helps young people find their identity in the Lord and move toward fulfilling their destiny in Him. We have written extra material to go with each teaching: questions, teachers' notes, icebreakers, visual aids, prayer strategies, self-evaluating questions, group activities, and practical applications of Biblical principles.

We who are older must reach young people with the Word of God. In their need and desire to grow in the Lord, today's young believers will benefit greatly from spiritual mentors who will teach and train them to be true disciples of Jesus. This is an opportune time of grace for discipling those who are younger in the Lord. It is a season for mature men and women in the faith to rise up and responsibly mentor and pour their lives into the next generation.

**Psalm 71:18** says, "Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."

In 2007, a well-known American Bible teacher wrote, *“After 30 years of full time ministry, I am captured with the desire and the need to multiply my life and ministry into the lives of others. It is time for a new generation of spiritual fathers and mothers to arise and pour their lives into younger believers.”*

Choose to make eternal investments into this next generation of believers! These future leaders will likely be infiltrating every level of society. They need to be strong in their faith, mature in knowing God and His Word, and bold in sharing what they believe!

If you are not investing your life into the lives of younger believers, *why not?!* There are few investments as worthy as this one! This is eternal! You can leave a legacy behind by teaching others everything that God has taught you. You might need to eliminate other important activities you are currently engaged in so that you can make time for this ministry. *Ask the Lord what is most important for YOU at this season of your life.* It may well be that you were born at this time in history to be a spiritual coach to young people so that they can come into their inheritance as mature sons and daughters of God and be a light to the nations.

**Psalm 145:4,11,12** says, *“One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. They shall speak of the glory of Your Kingdom and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts and the glorious majesty of His Kingdom.”*

May God bless you and anoint your efforts to make eternal investments into younger believers and future spiritual leaders!

*Reuven & Yanit Ross*