



Your Passion Becomes Their Passion



"Like father, like son" and "Like mother, like daughter" may not apply very often to you and your teenagers. But you're having more of an influence on your kids than you may realize. We've always known that parents' faith is important for kids' spiritual development. Now some landmark research shows just how crucial your beliefs are.

The National Study of Youth and Religion recently found that three out of four religious teenagers consider their own beliefs to be similar to those of their parents. What's more, 77% of teenagers who belonged to a congregation said they expected to be part of a similar congregation at age 25.

Teenagers aren't likely to come right out and admit that their parents are serving as role models. Sometimes you probably feel like your kids don't even want to associate with you. But another major NSYR finding is that most teenagers desire to have stronger relationships with their parents. They just aren't sure how to make it happen. So that's where you come in!

It's up to parents to take the lead with faith discussions in your home. When you're passionate about your beliefs, that passion will be contagious. Academic studies and real-life examples prove that parents who strive to live out a devoted Christian faith raise kids who tend to do the same. Read on for tips and ideas about developing and passing along this passion.

Summer Events

June 11 – Bowling*

July 2 – Photo Scavenger Hunt at Como Zoo

June 18 – BBQ and games

July 9 – Feed My Starving Children*

July 16 – Canoeing/Fishing

June 25 – Tubing the River at Welch

June 30 – LYF Day at Valleyfair

July 21-25 – VBS (being held at CA)

July 30 – Hiking*

August 6 – Beach Day

*5th-6th graders are invited to attend
All events open to Jr. and Sr. High youth

Pulse

Here are some more results from the NSYR:

- Half of the teenagers surveyed said faith is "very important" or "extremely important" in their lives.
- Only 8% of teenagers said they're "spiritual but not religious."
- Teenagers who say their parents love, understand, or pay attention to them are more likely to be religiously devoted than are their peers who say their parents don't love, understand, or pay attention to them.
- Of the teenagers who attend worship services, 70% rate their congregation as a "very good" or "fairly good" place to discuss serious issues or problems.



(National Study of Youth and Religion; Soul Searching)

Great Questions to ask your kids

Although adolescence is a crucial time for faith formation, the process is never complete. Use these questions to talk with your kids about their under-construction beliefs:

1. How important is your faith to you? Would you say it's your No. 1 priority? Why or why not?
2. What aspects of believing in God are the easiest and the hardest for you, and why?
3. Do you know someone who's passionate about God? If so, what do you admire most about him or her?
4. Are you being a spiritual example, or mentor, for anyone right now? Explain.
5. If you could change one thing about our relationship, what would it be, and why?



Focus on Prayer

1. God will strengthen your own faith and keep you focused on your relationship with him.
2. God will help you be a good spiritual example for your family and a trusted mentor for your kids.
3. Your teenagers will desire to grow closer to God and to you.
4. Your teenagers will remain passionate about their faith throughout their lives.

Verse of the month

"Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed." (Psalm 112:1-2)

As our heavenly Father, God is worthy of our honor, respect, and love. This mirrors the ideal relationship between earthly parents and their children. Parents aren't perfect (just ask your teenagers!), but moms and dads who strive to live godly lives leave a lasting legacy for their kids—and for many generations to come. Obedience, whether it's to God or to parents, results in joy and growth. Because God promises eternal "success" to those who trust in him, a spiritual heritage is the best gift you could ever give your kids.



Great News, Mom and Dad!

It's not car keys, cash, an endless supply of entertainment, or invites to killer parties that make today's teenagers the happiest. It's not even hobbies or popularity. According to the latest research, it's spending time with family!

Yes, it's true. Research conducted by the Associated Press and MTV (yes, MTV!) found that chillin' with the fam ranked first on the happy-meter. Spending time with friends finished second, followed by spending time with significant others. Did you catch that? The top-three sources of happiness for kids today are based on relationships! Honorable mentions include "sports" in 10th place and "achieving success" in 20th.

The happiness survey, more than 100 questions long, pried into almost every area of kids' lives. It measured everything from money to spiritual experience to pets. Want the best news yet? Of the 1,280 young people polled (ages 13-24), 73% said Mom and Dad make them happy. Told you it was good news! (SimplyYouthMinistry.com)



Music alternative

Background: Deitrick Haddon began leading worship at age 11, when he gave a sermon at his father's church. He led the choir at age 13 and later led the singing group Voices of Unity. In 2002, Haddon launched his Christian R&B solo career with *Lost and Found*. It reached No. 1 on Billboard's Top Gospel charts and earned much radio time on gospel and mainstream R&B stations. While continuing his own musical career, Haddon, 25, also produces for other artists, including his wife, Damita.

Albums: *Lost and Found* (2002), *Just the Hits* (2005), *7 Days* (2006), *Voices of Unity* (2007)

What You Should Know: Haddon's energetic praise-and-worship music has many influences: bluesy, soul, big ballads, and dance gospel.

What Haddon Has to Say: "Every time I do something, I seek to do it better and do something I believe God is calling me to do," Haddon says. "I just do what God gives me; I don't try to be anybody else. I don't let the industry or people dictate what I do."

Discussion Questions: What do you think God wants you to do with your life, and why? How can you know God's will and plan? When you're making decisions, how much do you let other people sway you?

musicspotlight



Albums:
Chris Brown (2005),
Exclusive (2007)

Background: Teenage recording artist Chris Brown began singing at age 11. Two years later, while Brown was working in his dad's gas station, a local production team discovered him. His 2005 self-titled debut album featured the hit single "Run It!" Brown's newly released second album, *Exclusive*, scored another No. 1 hit with "Kiss Kiss." Now 18, Brown also has an acting career. He appeared in the dance movie *Stomp the Yard* and in TV shows such as *The OC*, *My Super Sweet 16*, and *The Suite Life of Zach and Cody*.

What You Should Know: Brown's music addresses relationships, often with inappropriate and sexually explicit lyrics.

What Brown Has to Say: When asked how he keeps the fun in success, Brown says, "I think just by being myself. You don't have a whole bunch of dummies around you. Keep the people that you like around you, and just be yourself."

Discussion Questions: Is it good to hang out only with people who you like and have stuff in common with? Why or why not? In your life, who keeps you grounded? Are you able to "just be yourself" around your friends? Why or why not?



filmwatch

Movie: *Prom Night* (released April 11)

Rating: *PG-13* for violence and terror, some sexual material, underage drinking, and language

Genre: Horror/suspense

Synopsis: Donna's senior prom is supposed to be magical. But when the night turns murderous, only one man could be responsible. To survive their prom night, Donna and her friends must escape the rampage of an obsessed killer. (This is a remake of the 1980 horror film.)

Discussion Questions: What types of feelings do you have about the prom or other school dances? What might make them "magical"? What might make them difficult? How can you avoid some of the challenges kids often face at these big events?

APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Open Gym and Games 6 pm Supper (FREE) 7-8 pm Bible Study	3	4	5 King of Kings Garage Sale 9 am - 2 pm
6 8:30 Worship 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 11:00 Worship 12:00 Board of Young People's Work Meeting	7	8 Exploring Church Careers registration deadline	9 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Open Gym and Games 6 pm Supper (\$3) 7-8 pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 8:30 Worship 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 11:00 Worship	14	15	16 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Open Gym and Games 6 pm Supper (\$3) 7-8 pm Bible Study	17	18 Junior High Youth Gathering Exploring Church Career	19 Junior High Youth Gathering Exploring Church Careers
20 8:30 Worship 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 11:00 Worship	21	22	23 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Open Gym and Games 6 pm Supper (\$3) 7-8 pm Bible Study	24	25	26
27 8:30 Worship 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 11:00 Worship	28	29	30 3-5 pm Sr Youth Open Youth Room 5-7 pm Jr & Sr Youth Open Gym and Games 6 pm Supper (\$3) 7-8 pm Bible Study			

Upcoming Events ~ More Information

Wednesday Night Topics:

Jr High (Various Topics)
2nd— Cheating
9th—Faith
16th—Focusing on God
23rd—Freedom
30th—Friendship

Sr High (Service)

2nd— Hassel—Free Home
9th— It's Your Service
16th—Aaron Stine
23rd—God's Hands
30th—Lean on Me

Junior High Youth Gathering:

Meet at church at 5:00, on April 18th, for Pizza and the carpool will be leaving at 5:30 for CSP. We will be returning to King of Kings at 3:30 on the 19th.