



Protecting Teens from the Pull of Materialism



"Protecting your teens from the pull of materialism is practically impossible, but it doesn't mean that parents should give up."

It is no secret that teens are bombarded with images, commercials, and messages selling the latest gadget or the next "must-have" item. It is not just a Christmas season issue. It is a year round issue. Protecting teens from the pull of materialism seems practically impossible, but it doesn't mean that parents should give up. Parents can combat materialism by helping teens understand the value of being thankful with what they have, instead of focusing on what they want. According to harrisinteractive.com, "Increasing materialism among youth does not immediately translate into less generous behavior; rather, gratitude plays an important role in influencing their level of generosity." Parents can teach and model the value of money itself. Money fuels the flame of materialism, and whether it is given to them by parents or whether they earn it themselves, teens will always have money to spend. Teens spend billions of dollars each year on "things". If parents can positively influence HOW and WHAT teens spend their money on, we can then begin to see the effects of materialism slow down. The fight to defeat materialism cannot be won without teens understanding the value of giving. Acts 20:35b reminds all of us that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Giving takes the focus off of ourselves and allows us to put others first. Materialism is selfish, but giving is selfless. The ultimate selfless Gift was given to us in Jesus Christ. Let us all celebrate the way our Savior lived by sacrificing and giving this Christmas.

Sr High Special Events

December 9th—Holidazzle Parade
4:30 pm—7:30 pm
Bring money for supper!
Limited spots available for marching in the parade,
collecting food and monetary donations for the
Emergency Food Shelf.

This event will also be advertised at CA if it is not full by
December 1st so be sure to sign up quickly to guarantee
a spot!

February 1-3—Senior High District Youth Gathering
Theme: yt? (you there?) from Micah 6:8
At the Holiday Inn Select—Bloomington, MN
Cost: Begins at \$150 (with 4 people in a room)
\$50 deposit needed by January 6th!
Time: Friday at 5:30 pm to Sunday at 1:00 pm

Please see Sally for a registration form. This is a great
opportunity to get together with all of the senior high
youth in the district! We will also be needing chaperones
so please let Sally know if you are interested!

August 3-8 - Red Lake Reservation Servant Event
If your child wants to attend, please let Sally know. We
had to change the date because the other week filled and
we have a limited number of spots reserved.
We will need chaperones - your costs will be covered.

Pulse

**Harris Interactive
conducted a very
interesting study on teens'
approaches to materialism
and sharing. Here are some
of the findings:**



Teens' response to
materialism:

71% - I would be happier if I
had more money to buy more things for myself.
68% - I really enjoy going shopping.
61% - I would love to be able to buy things that cost lots
of money.
50% - I like to buy things my friends have.
(harrisinteractive.com)

Teens' response to sharing:

82% - I like to help raise money for needy people.
78% - I like to share my things with other people.
67% - I would give one of my favorite birthday presents
to a person who has less than I do.
40% - Sometimes I get upset when someone wants to
share my stuff.
(harrisinteractive.com)

The Parent POV

(point of view)

You might know WHAT your teen wants for Christmas, but do you know WHY? These questions just might give you the insight needed for the best Christmas yet!

Have your teen make a list of the top 5 presents they want to receive this Christmas. Then ask your teen the following questions:

1. What influenced you to rank your presents in this order (advertising, friends, preference, etc.)?
2. Do you think this present will be very important to you next year? Why or why not?
3. Do these presents have any eternal significance to your life or to another's life? Do you think that should matter? Why or why not?
4. If we had the option to give our Christmas budget for presents to a needy family, would you agree to give:
 - a. all of it?
 - b. half of it?
 - c. some of it?
 - d. none of it?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. God will give your family a heart "to give" this Christmas season instead of a heart "to get."
2. God will allow your teen to find their identity in Christ and not in the "things of this world."
3. God will help your teen spend some of their own money and time on things that have eternal significance.
4. God will be glorified and lifted up and not get lost in all of the lights, reindeer, and Santa hats.

Jr and Sr High Events

January 13—Ice Skating at the Oval

(5/6 Graders also invited)

Time: 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Cost: \$5—\$10 (depending on if you need to rent skates)

February 23-24—30 Hour Famine!

Time without food: Saturday at 8:30 am—Sunday at 2:30 pm

2:30 pm on Sunday—"Breaking the Fast" Meal

The purpose is to raise pledges that will help the starving around the world! To participate, youth will need to raise a minimum of \$30 in pledges (\$1 per hour). Pledges from immediate family will not be counted towards the \$30 minimum. This is not an event that parents should be paying for by supplying all the pledges. Youth need to go out and ask others. I encourage youth to shatter the minimum and set goals at \$50, \$100 or even \$300!

We will have activities throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. If you have other engagements during the 30 hours, you will be free to come and go as needed on an honor system of not eating while you are gone.

Pledge collecting will begin after the New Year when youth can sign up and receive a pledge packet.



Did you know...

* In a recent national survey, 95% of adults say that children/teens are too focused on buying and consuming things, and almost 80% agree that limits should be placed on advertising to children/teens. (Journal of Consumer Research, December 2007)

* A teen's intent to purchase a flat-panel TV within the next six months increased to 34 percent from 15 percent in the spring of 2006 and 11 percent year over year. (piperjaffray.com)

* 82% of teens say they will spend more/same amount of money as they did in 2006. (alloymarketing.com)



Music alternative

Fighting Instinct is a trio from North Carolina. The band's name represents a common reflection of mankind's fight against its own sinful nature. The group was discovered by an industry veteran, Eddie DeGarmo, who quickly signed them to EMI which led to their Gotee Record release of their self-titled debut album. "Fighting Instinct boasts a raw classic rock edge that isn't under-produced. The band offers rhythmic punch with some genuine guitar solos, and it doesn't hurt that Harris has a voice perfectly suited for hard rock and metal." The group's music style is said to be "a cross-section of metal, grunge, and Southern rock both classic and contemporary." (wikipedia.com)

trends

When surveying teens on their favorite places to shop and their spending habits, here are the top places of preference:

1. Hollister
2. West Coast Brands (Volcom, Hurley, Billabong)
3. Abercrombie & Fitch
4. American Eagle
5. Urban Outfitters

(piperjaffray.com)

musicspotlight



Albums:
"Avenged Sevenfold" - 2007

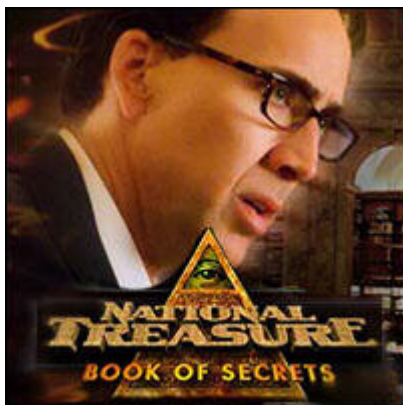
"City of Evil" - 2005

Background:

Avenged Sevenfold, or A7X, is comprised of five best friends who have been together as a group since high school. The Orange County, California based group released their debut album in July 2001. Miles of van touring ensued while A7X built up its fan base. In 2005, Warner Brothers released A7X's "City of Evil" which was "the turning point for the fearless, genre-bending quintet...that had finally advanced towards a milestone they had been seeking throughout their careers." They became the only band to headline Warped Tour and Ozzfest while simultaneously hitting the number one spot on MTV's TRL. Their self-titled newest album is said to be "in a word, eclectic." Their name is actually from the Bible, and refers to "what goes around comes around". The group is, however, very quick to denounce being a religious group. (avengedsevenfold.com)

What Parents Should Know: Their album contains a parental advisory and is demonic in nature as well as visually. It contains extremely foul language and touches on relationships, suicide, and drugs.

What they have to say: "We just kind of use the darker side of The Bible for our music you know. We've always kind of done that, I mean the name AVENGED SEVENFOLD in itself, is about murdering." **Q:** In what ways do you think the Bible is misinterpreted? Why do you think the Bible is misused so much?



filmwatch

Parents be aware of what is being marketing to your teens this holiday season.

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
National Treasure: Book of Secrets	PG	For some violence and action	Action	Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street	R	For graphic bloody violence	Horror	Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter, Alan Rickman
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem	R	For violence, gore, and language	Horror	Reiko Aylesworth, Steven Pasquale, Gina Holden

DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room Commitment Sunday Advent Begins	3	4	5 3:00 pm Open Youth Room 5:00 pm Begin set up for Advent Meal 5:45 pm Advent Meal 7:00 pm Advent Worship	6	7	8
9 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room 12:00 - 2:30 pm 5/6 Grade Event at KOK 4:30 - 7:30 pm Sr Youth Holidazzle Parade	10	11	12 3:00 pm Open Youth Room 5:00 pm Begin set up for Advent Meal 5:45 pm Advent Meal 7:00 pm Advent Worship	13	14	15
16 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room	17	18	19 3:00 pm Open Youth Room 5:00 pm Begin set up for Advent Meal 5:45 pm Advent Meal 7:00 pm Advent Worship	20	21	22
23 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room	24 Christmas Eve 7 pm Family Worship 10:30 pm Candlelight and Carol Worship	25 Christmas Day 9:30 am Worship	26	27	28	29
30 9:45 am K-8th Grade Sunday School 9th-12th Grade Bible Study in Youth Room	31					

Upcoming Events ~ More Information

Jr and Sr Youth Wednesday Nights

We will be taking a break from our regular Wednesday night program for the Advent/Christmas Season. Please join us again starting January 9th! The youth room will continue to be open from 3-5 pm for youth to hang out, work on homework, etc.

Advent Meals

This is a service and fundraising opportunity for junior and senior high youth. A sign up sheet is available in the gym next to the serving window. Spaces are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. We need assistance in the following areas:

Setting up and serving (5:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

Playing games and putting away tables (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Serving and cleaning up (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

We also need youth families to donate milk, bread, and desserts. Adults are invited to lead the making of the main dish with help from the youth. Please contact Megan Goodwin for more information (651-587-5469).

5/6 Grade Event on December 9th

Cost: \$3 for lunch

We will be enjoying games and devotion at King of Kings.

This will be the last event for just 5/6 graders. Starting in January, they will be invited to join some of the jr and sr youth events.