

## What your teen needs is you



**"The one thing your teen desperately needs for Christmas is YOU."**

The single most asked question by parents to their teens during the holiday season is, "pull out their 'must-have' list. Parents then spend hours searching for gifts online or ho read between the lines of your teen's Christmas list, there is one thing that is on the top teen desperately needs for Christmas is YOU. Your immediate response may be, "You ar don't want!" Parenting alone is beyond busy. Now add the rest of your life...work, churc accomplish it all. Teens' schedules aren't any better. The problem is our teens are pickin the joy of taking time for each other. As the New Year is quickly approaching, there is a

**Time Spent + Interest = L**

Teens don't just need quality time, they also want it. When you get home from an exha engage in conversation and interaction with your teen? The first response is easy, but th giving your undivided attention to your teen. Find out what interests them, and talk abo show your teen will translate into love. So this Christmas, give the gift that will cost you

### UPDATE

Greetings Parents,

We hope this holiday season carries all the blessing of the Lord as you and your family celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This month has been exciting. It seems the more times the youth group meets the more we draw closer to one another. Speaking of being together, Shannen put on a girls night out event and gathered all our youth girls to the Walsh home for some baking, games, a movie, food, and fun. All the reports from you parents and your children say that it was a hit. They all seemed to have such a good time. We are building a community of young people who love the Lord, amen!

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit we have been teaching this month about Developing a Biblical Worldview. What is a worldview? Well it is the way we view our world. You see our youth are constantly influenced by the world and we learned that one's worldview will be shaped intentionally or unintentionally. We are aiming to be intentional about seeing our world through the lens of God's Word. Finding out how Jesus saw the world.....continued below



**These polls just might surprise you.**

If you (teen) had one wish, which of the following life for you and your family?

- 46% - More time spent together with family.
- 27% - More money to buy items such as TV's or ca
- 14% - A bigger house.
- 7% - More time in spiritual pursuits - going to churc  
(horatioalger.org)

Do you (parent) spend more or less time with your with you?

- 61% - I spend more time than my parents did.
- 19% - I spend about the same amount of time.
- 17% - I spend less time.
- 3% - I am not sure.  
(cf.thebostonchannel.com)

## The Parent POV

(point of view)

**We all know spending time with our teens is important. Think about these questions to determine how well you know your teen, what he/she would like to do as a family, and what you as a parent would like to do as a family.**

1. Have your teen write down five of their favorite things to do while you write down what you think his/her answers will be. Now compare both lists. How did you do? What does this tell you about how well you know your son/daughter?

2. Do you think you take genuine interest in what your teen likes to do? Why or why not?

3. What is one thing you would like to see your family do together this coming year?

4. Do you think your family spends enough time together? Why or why not?



## Focus on Prayer

### Pray that:

1. God will give you rest and relaxation as a family this Christmas break.
2. God will give you a genuine desire to know, understand, and value what your teen enjoys in his/her life.
3. God will help you make finding time this coming year to spend with your family a top priority.
4. Your teen will see your family as a place of safety, support, encouragement, comfort, and love.

### ...UPDATE CONTINUED

We want to apply what God says about life to our own lives and this month we have been teaching our youth to that end

We took a pulse and asked our youth a serious of question about Christianity. Things like, do absolute moral truths exist, did Jesus live a sinless life, is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned, and is the bible accurate in all of its teachings? To the surprise of us all their answers were skewed or incorrect. What does that mean? Well, it means that we need to be working together to help shape their worldview so that they begin seeing the world based on God's Word

Developing a Biblical Worldview will build in our youth the foundations of their faith. It will help them gauge their moral choices, defend their faith, and share the gospel with their peers. God's Word transforms. Romans 12:2 says, Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable, and perfect. Our youth are being transformed, our youth are being conformed to Jesus

Merry Christmas!!!!



### Did you know...

\* Up to 67 percent of America's teens say they actually want to spend more time with their parents. That's according to an online survey of 1,250 adults and teens conducted by Opinion Research Corporation. (Boys and Girls Club - bgcgg.org)

\* According to a study by the New York Times, married and single parents spend more time teaching, playing with and caring for their children than their parents did in the 1960s. (nytimes.com)

\* While nearly a quarter of teen respondents said their parents don't seem to have enough time to spend with them, the majority of the parents surveyed did not report having struggles with finding enough time to spend with their kids. This disconnect may be the result of parents underestimating the amount of time their kids want and need from adults. (Boys and Girls Club - bgcgg.org)

\* Family dinners have decreased by 33% over the past 20 years, and family vacations have decreased by 28%. (playingforkeeps.org)



