

## Teens want what they think fame brings



**Popular culture gives teens the idea that fame is more important than anything else.**

It is no surprise that we live in a culture that glorifies the rich and famous. We have become obsessed with breakups and breakdowns of the stars through magazines, Internet, television, and all the other venues. If you don't think this is an issue with teens, think about this question Jake Halpern asked to over 650 teens in his book called "Fame Junkies": "Given a choice of becoming the CEO of a major corporation, the president of Yale or Harvard, a Navy SEAL, a U.S. senator or "the personal assistant to a very famous singer or movie star," almost half of the girls — 43.4% — chose the assistant role" (jakehalpern.com).

You might think this is absurd, but for many teens this is reality. Teens want what they think fame brings, and that is the Three A's: affluence, attractiveness, and achievement. The picture painted by our culture shows that the more of the Three A's you have, the better your life will be. God reminds us in Luke 14 that we have our priorities all wrong. Jesus tells a story of someone being invited to a wedding feast. He reminds us not to take the place of honor because someone more distinguished could show up. Then, He says in Luke 14:11, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Helping teens see the value of exalting Christ instead of themselves is where true success and fame can be found. As we lift Him up, our priorities shift to Him and to others. The most famous in God's eyes are the one's who love, serve, and give when no one else is looking.

### Greetings Parents,

Here we are in the month of February 2007. What an exciting chance for us to grab a hold of what the Lord has for us all this year. I hope this newsletter finds all of you in the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This month our youth have been challenged. We have been raising the stakes so to speak. What do I mean, well let me explain.

We have noticed that all but a small few have been bringing their Bibles with them to the youth group, after a little love and encouragement we have noticed more of our youth making an effort to bring their bibles. You see coming to Church without a Bible is like taking a cross-country trip with no map.

As well we have been stretching them a bit and causing them to really give some intentional thought to our group discussions. Many of our youth have expressed a difficulty in understanding the bible, so we have been encouraging them in four areas of reading and studying scripture. (1) Ask the question, "who is the passage about" (2) Ask, "what is being said" (3) Ask, "what does it mean" (4) Ask, "How does it apply to my life"

## Pulse

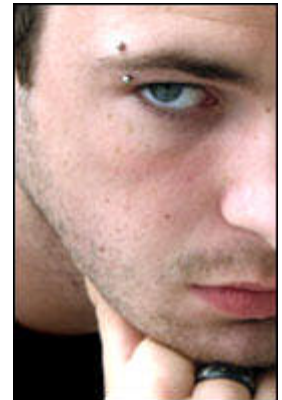
**Usaweekend.com asked teens some very interesting questions about famous people. Here is what they found:**

Which quality matters most to you in a celebrity? (Pick one)

- 36% Talent
- 32% Personality
- 17% Character
- 15% Looks

Do you agree with this statement: When celebrities make the following choices, a lot of teens want to do the same.

- 77% - Lose weight
- 62% - Pierce a body part
- 58% - Get a tattoo
- 48% - Drink alcohol
- 47% - Smoke cigarettes
- 39% - Take drugs



## The Parent POV

(point of view)

**It's amazing how many teens (and adults) are mesmerized by the thought of being famous. See what your teen thinks about some of these questions.**

1. Who is your favorite famous person? What do you like about them?
2. If you could be friends with any famous person, who would it be? Why would you want to be friends with them? Do you think they would be a good friend?
3. Why do you think we are so obsessed with famous people and their mistakes?
4. Do you think fame comes at a price? What are some of the advantages/disadvantages of fame? Would you be willing to pay that price to be famous?
5. Can you name any celebrities who are famous and live for Christ? Why aren't there that many?



## Focus on Prayer

### Pray that:

1. Your teen will have the desire to store up treasures in heaven instead of trying to store up treasures here on earth.
2. God will continue to use your teen for His glory and for His fame.
3. Your teen will find their importance in Christ, instead of how the world tells them to find their worth.
4. God will help your teen pursue the things of God, to find satisfaction in Him and only Him.

### ...Continued

With each discussion we had this month we are finding that we are breaking new ground. Our youth are beginning to see that Christ's message carries significant meaning and we are learning how to apply His word to our life.

We encourage you as parents to sit down with your child(ren) and read the bible with them 5-10 minutes is reasonable. Help them with the above questions in mind. I am positive it will prove helpful in more ways than just knowledge of the bible.

As we continue, we are praying that our youth begin to encounter Jesus in a real and authentic way. Please pray fervently for this ministry to our youth. We are looking for the Lord to transform their character, relationships, message, and mission, so that they are the next generation to love Him and serve His church.



### Did you know...

\* When given an option to become stronger, smarter, famous, or better looking, boys in a survey chose fame almost as often as intelligence, and girls chose it more often. (usatoday.com)

\* 31% of American teenagers believe they'll become famous one day. (psychologytoday.com)

\* Students were asked to choose which famous person they would most like to have dinner with. The top three choices went to Paris Hilton and 50 Cent (both at 15.8%), who tied for third place. Second place went to Jesus Christ (16.8%) and the winner was Jennifer Lopez (17.4%). (jakehalpern.com)

\* Teens who described themselves as often or always "depressed" were more likely than others to believe that becoming a celebrity would make them happier. Teenagers who described themselves as feeling "lonely" were also more likely to believe that fame would make a positive impact on their lives. (jakehalpern.com)

