

Your Impact Matters

Why are Young People Walking Away from Christianity?

Culture

1. The scaffolding of Christian morality, ethics, and purpose is gone. Who needs God when there is no sin?
2. Acceptance, self-esteem, and affirmation are highest values.
3. Youth is esteemed while age is devalued.
4. The individual is more important than the community.
5. Science and the Arts are incompatible with Christianity.

Church

1. A "too-small" gospel.
2. Biblical ignorance.
3. Moral failures of leaders and hurt by Christians.
4. Simplistic answers to complex issues.
5. A belief system that is moralistic and theistic

Home

1. Lack of meaningful engagement.
2. Building self-esteem from the outside in rather than the inside out.
3. Prioritizing protecting youth over preparing them.
4. Reducing faith to a set of intellectual beliefs rather than forming meaning and character.
5. The Bible is irrelevant to everyday life.

Gen Z (Born 2000-2015) are twice as likely to identify as atheist as the rest of the population.

Your Impact Matters

Relational apologetics is more powerful than informational apologetics.

Show Christianity is Relevant

Saturate your children's hearts with stories and cultivate relationships with others who have a mature faith.

1. Read the Bible. Don't just say it's God's Word. Live like it.
2. Share your faith story. Not just about coming to faith but the ongoing journey. Be authentic.
3. Learn about true-life accounts of disciples. Don't white-wash difficult stories. God doesn't!
4. Foster inter-generational relationships.
5. Utilize programs and resources in and outside of your community. Whose in your church or community that you could invite for dinner and have a conversation with about their faith?

Show Christianity is Intolerant of What Destroys

Express Christ's love intentionally.

1. Participate in service projects, especially if they are more than one & done. Not only does this live out the gospel but it provides opportunities to build relationships with others.
2. Participate in and/or support mission trips...if they're not "pray-and-pay-my-way-vacations."
3. Minister to the poor...in health, economically, spiritually, and relationally.
4. Model and teach critical thinking. Don't allow buzz words like "tolerance" intimidate you.
5. Be a P.I. of Christianity and other religions and worldviews. If you don't have an answer to a question, dig until you do.

By age 30, there is a 43% decline in church attendance for those who were involved as teens.

Your Impact Matters

Only 12% of teens active in church have a regular conversation with their mom about faith & life. With dads? 5%. Let's flip this!

Show Christianity is Compatible with Science & the Arts

Rescue science and the arts from the world's domain.

1. Participate or support the performing and fine arts. You may have wholesome options locally or need to travel or use online sources.
2. Expand the discussions about Christianity and science beyond the age of the earth. Talk about the role of Christianity in medical ethics, artificial intelligence, psychology, social sciences, development and usage of technology, production of goods and food. You don't need to be knowledgeable in all these areas; just curious.
3. Develop relationships with Christians in the arts and sciences. Ask how their faith has helped them in these areas and how it has been challenged.
4. Introduce your children to both historical and modern scientists and artists who are Christians through books, podcasts, videos, conferences, performances, etc.

Show that Christianity is Rational

God has called you to be his disciple, not a public relations manager.

1. Tackle the hard issues without feeling like you have to provide solutions or answers. Better to discuss questions like, "Why does a good God allow suffering?" without an answer than avoid them entirely.
2. Talk about how Christianity influences your everyday life. Be real. Admit mistakes. Share what "growth gaps" you're currently dealing with and which ones you've dealt with in the past. Show them how you process emotions and make decisions.

Nobody's story is over until their last breath.

Your Impact Matters

*Handing Down the Faith
by Christian Smith and
Amy Adamczyk*

*Sticky Faith by
Kara Powell and
Chap Clark*

*Why I Believe by
Dr. Henry Cloud*

axis.org

youversion.com

*You Lost Me by
David Kinnaman*

*So the Next Generation
Will Know
by Sean McDowell and J.
Warner Wallace*