

Discover Ways to Renew the 'Spark' of Kids' Faith



"Apathy is a sort of living oblivion," wrote 19th-century editor Horace Greeley. A common refrain from many parents is that their teenagers are lackluster, or hard to "fire up"—especially when it comes to God and the church. Ironically, the apathy epidemic today just may have its roots in overactivity.

"With so much going on for school and traveling teams, [kids] have no time for church, youth groups, and even family time," says one youth minister in *Group Magazine's* "State of Youth Ministry" report. "Kids are getting pulled in so many directions." Other respondents said their biggest struggles are kids whose lives are compartmentalized and who don't make Christ a priority for daily living.

Youth ministers said they're dying for teenagers who are engaged and passionate about their faith, ready and willing to commit their lives to Jesus. On the positive side, they said they've noticed a hunger among today's teenagers for "deeper" things, as well as a move from "flash" to substance.

So how can you fan the flames of your kids' faith and convince them to invest in it 100 percent? First, lift up your teenagers in prayer often. The Holy Spirit is the one with the power to change hearts and lives. Next, make faith applicable to everyday life. Don't limit talk of God to Sundays. Tie in Scripture to issues that kids face at home, at school, and in their activities and jobs. Make Christ a priority in your own life, and show kids by example what a committed Christian walk looks like. If necessary, cut back your busy schedule to focus more on God. Finally, harness kids' hunger to go deeper by asking them tough questions and issuing spiritual challenges. Teenagers seeking a cause won't find a better one than Christ.



Silvertips Hockey Night!!!!
Student Ministries and Kidz Rock Ministries is sponsoring a family fun hockey night with the Silvertips! Friday, March 12th at 7:35PM we are all going to have a chance to meet up and cheer on the Silvertips in one of their last home game of the season. The cost of the tickets is only \$10! Sign up right away as we have only a limited number of seats.

Pulse

Check out these interesting statistics about how brightly people's fires are burning for God:

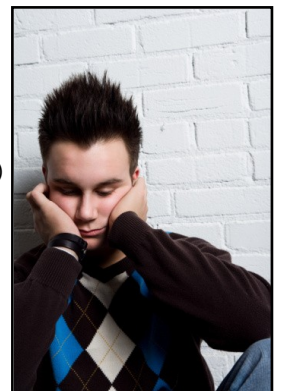
- Sixty percent of Christian teenagers lose interest in church activities and organized religion, despite their previous participation.

(Barna Group)

- Researcher George Barna uses the term "casual Christians" to describe the two-of-out-three adults who are spiritually middle-of-the-road or even ambivalent about their faith.

- On the positive side, in a survey of almost 30,000 Christian teenagers from last summer, the majority of kids were passionate about their faith. Seventy-seven percent of Christian teenagers disagreed with this statement: "I've met a lot of people who seem more interesting to me than Jesus does."

(Group Magazine)



Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Attack indifference by using these discussion starters with your teenagers:

1. What things or people are you most excited about right now? Do God and your faith excite you? Why or why not?
2. Which of your beliefs are you the most and the least passionate about, and why? What inspires you to stand up for something or someone?
3. In what ways is living a Christian life an adventure? What "equipment" is needed to embark on this trip?
4. What would you say to a friend who had lost his or her "spark" for God?



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will be touched by God's love and become passionate about him—and passionate about living for him.
2. God will open a window for you to penetrate through any apathy that your teenagers experience.
3. Your teenagers will feel like their faith in God has been set on fire.
4. God will use you as an example to show that following Christ is the most worthwhile pursuit a young person can undertake.

Verse of the month

"Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of [the believers]. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:3-4)

On Pentecost, known as the church's birthday, the early Christians were literally set aflame for God. Thanks to the Holy Spirit's power and presence, more than 3,000 people were added to the church that day. The same Holy Spirit can work miracles in hearts and lives even now.

My Avalanche Awakening by Chris Reilly

January 29-31 I had the privilege to take part in a winter camp with the Student and Children Ministries of FBC, but this opportunity was made even more unique by the fact that this time, I was working in the kitchen. I'm a person who enjoys serving and enjoys a challenge even more, so I naturally welcomed this opportunity. I was told that it would be a lot of work, but hard work has never deterred me before (unless it was homework). Little did I know; this trip would be a huge eye opener for me, as well as a learning experience.

When we go to a camp or retreat, we often don't consider the enormous amount of work and sacrifice that is made by the people who cook our food. We often take our food for granted. I always knew the kitchen crew had it rough, but I never really knew just how rough. This weekend showed me just how hard it really is, because it's one thing to see something, but something entirely different to experience it. Before I came, I thought I knew something about serving. This camp showed me just how much I did not know. From 6am to 11pm were the hours needed for kitchen crew, and we were pretty much working the entire time while everyone else was out having fun. The people that Michael Kinsman (The other High Schooler working with me) and I were working for, were the most incredible examples of servants I have ever seen. Both were in the kitchen when I arrived at 6 in the morning, and both were there when I went to bed. Steve Dittoe never took a break and Shawn Lane was in much pain the entire weekend, and yet we had to fight him half the time to get him to take a break. These men were the ones leading Michael and I in the kitchen. I learned a lot from them. I also learned that God can speak to you in the most unusual ways.

When I came to camp, I was not expecting to hear that much about God because I was going to be in the kitchen. But I ended up being greatly encouraged because of Steve. Steve, Michael, and I were in the kitchen and Steve began a conversation. He started asking Michael about his story, how he came to FBC, how he came to Christ, etc. Then he asked me about my story, so I told him my testimony. I told him of how my mother was wiccan, about my dad, about my mom leaving my dad, about the tremendous impact my step-mom had on me towards Christ, and how I had only been a Christian for a couple years. Upon stating that last piece of information, I shared with him my remorse of having wasted 11 years of my life, something I've had for a long time. But then he said something that would change that. He told me that those years were not wasted, but instead God let me have those experiences for a reason, and that God will use those 11 years to further his kingdom, so long as I use them as God wants me to. I'm convinced that God spoke to me through Steve, because after I thought about it, that remorse was no longer present. It was no longer necessary. I knew then, that God had a purpose for those 11 years, and He will use them to further His kingdom, so I have no reason to be remorseful. Praise God! So if there is anyone who, like me, was not a Christian most of their lives, do not be discouraged, for God will use you even if you were the worst of sinners, or if you have not known Jesus that long.

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: This country band formed in 2006 and got their big break singing backup on a Jim Brickman song. Lady Antebellum's debut album went platinum, and their recent follow-up debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts. They were named 2009's best new country music group.

Albums: *Need You Now* (2010), *Lady Antebellum* (2008)

What Parents Should Know: "Hello World" talks about seeing God's miracles in life. But the group sometimes sings of being drunk and having one-night stands, too.

What Lady Antebellum Says: Singer Hillary Scott says the hit single "Need You Now" is about the ups and downs of relationships. "[We] know what it's like to get to that point where you feel lonely enough that you make a late-night phone call that you...could regret the next day," she says.

Discussion Questions: When do you feel lonely? Why is loneliness so devastating? What are some different ways people deal with loneliness? Read aloud Isaiah 41:9-10. How does God make his presence known in our lives? What are some productive ways to combat feelings of loneliness? How can you seek out people who are lonely?



Christian Artist

Background: These award-winning Canadian rockers rose from anonymity to become one of the biggest names in modern worship. They are staples of ministry conferences around the world.

Albums: *The Saving One* (2010), *Beauty in the Broken* (2006), *Starfield* (2004)

What Parents Should Know: This band has a heart for teenagers; they've led worship at the teen-centered Dare2Share events, as well as numerous youth ministry conferences. Their worship music is a mix of hard and soft but is always heartfelt and powerful.

What Starfield Says: Singer Tim Neufeld says the song "Rediscover You" is a spot-on description of his own journey with Christ. "I desperately find myself needing to rediscover the things of God—I want real, and I want passionate. I want to relearn 'walking by faith.'"

Discussion Questions: How often do you think about God? Why is it so easy to be distracted from your relationship with God? Read aloud Psalm 37:1-9. What promises and encouragement do these verses offer? How should we respond to God? What does it mean to walk by faith? How can you grow closer to God and trust him more?

FILMWATCH

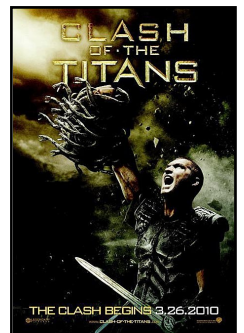
Movie: *Clash of the Titans* (releases April 2)

Genre: Action, Fantasy

Rating: Not yet rated

Synopsis: Born of a god but raised as a man, Perseus (Sam Worthington) loses his family to Hades (Ralph Fiennes), vengeful god of the underworld. With nothing left to lose, Perseus volunteers to lead a dangerous mission to defeat Hades before he can seize power from Zeus (Liam Neeson) and unleash hell on earth.

Discussion Questions: How powerful is Satan, compared to God? How would it affect your faith if God were vulnerable and could be defeated? Read aloud Mark 10:27. What do these verses say about God's power? Is God in control of everything that happens in our lives—even the bad stuff? Explain.



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Middle School 6:45-8:15pm			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am—MS lifegroup 10:30—HS 5-7pm—HS lifegroups			Middle School 6:45-8:15pm		Everett Silvertips Night 7:35 pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am—MS lifegroup 10:30—HS 5-7pm—HS lifegroups			Middle School 6:45-8:15pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am—MS lifegroup 10:30—HS 5-7pm—HS lifegroups	-		Middle School 6:45-8:15pm			
28	29	30	31			
9am—MS lifegroup 10:30—HS 5-7pm—HS lifegroups			Middle School 6:45-8:15pm			

This April we are having purity retreats for girls and guys in Middle School and High School. We are doing the retreats on separate weekends because, well...their different. We live in times that have become increasingly difficult for our youth. Teens are maturing at a younger age yet the average age people are getting married is getting older. Technology has changed what a teenager is exposed to, 92% of teens (ages 12-18) have seen internet pornography.

There are a decreasing number of voices telling today's teens that purity is not only important, but commanded from God. These retreats are being done to meet a growing need to speak to our teens about these issues. If you are a teenager, you need to come to this retreat. If you're a parent of a teenager, please don't ignore the world that surrounds them. These pressures are real!

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God... For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit." – 1st Thessalonians 4:3-8

Girls Retreat
April 9-11

Guys Retreat
April 16-18

Location – Cascade Meadows Camp
Cost - \$50