



PARENT CONNECT

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PARENTS AND YOUTH MINISTRY



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Edge Camo Christmas Party!

Tuesday, Dec 15
7pm

New Year Kickoff in the Caribbean @The Edge all inclusive resort!

Tuesday, January 12
7pm

F56 New Year Kick off

Friday, January 15
6:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Legacy Youth Conference 2016

March 11-14
Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta
Registrations available on Dec 15

MANAGING MATERIALISM

Christmas tends to bring out the “I wants” in most people. You’ve probably already received a list of your teenagers’ requests—and we all know the older kids get, the more expensive their tastes become.

A few simple tips can help manage the materialism monster:

- Set a spending limit, and stick to it!
- As a family, commit to donate one dollar for every dollar you spend on Christmas gifts.
- Make shopping a bigger focus than the gift opening. Give each family member a modest amount of money, synchronize your watches, disperse throughout a mall or store, and attempt to find gifts within that price range.
- Shop only at stores that make a difference: The Arc, Goodwill, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, etc.

- Partner with agencies and groups that offer the opportunity to bless families in need at Christmas: Samaritan’s Purse, World Vision, Prison Fellowship, etc.

- Find a service project to regularly engage in as a family. Rather than shopping, spend some time serving in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.

Although gift-giving makes the holidays fun, materialism doesn’t have to rule your home. Simply strive to give your kids a balance between their wish lists and what matters most.

To help maintain focus, incorporate Acts 20:35 into your family’s holiday conversations: “I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”



By Darren Sutton



YOUTH CULTURE



A WORD FROM THE WORD

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Matthew 25:40, NLT

MAKING AN INFLUENCE

Each year, *Time* magazine lists the world’s most influential teenagers. Consider it the adolescent alternative to *People*’s “Sexiest Man Alive”—with more substance and fewer muscle. On this year’s list:

Maddie Ziegler (13), a former *Dance Moms* reality star who launched her own fashion line.

Chloe Kim (15), the youngest snowboarder to ever win gold at the Winter X-Games.

Shawn Mendes (17), a recording artist discovered via Vine whose single “Stitches” is now a top-10 hit.

Teenagers continue to dominate social media, personal video sites, reality TV, and pop channels and stations everywhere. And certainly they’re influential. Young people influence their adoring fans to buy products, adopt catch phrases, and launch their own efforts to become rich and famous. But being truly influential consists of more than just running a business at an early age or carrying the most trophies from the arena.

Encourage your teenagers to be world-changers by living for a purpose beyond their own advancement. Try these ideas:

Together, look up and discuss Bible verses about serving; for example, see Matthew 20:26-28; Matthew 23:10-12; John 13:1-17; and Galatians 5:13-14.

- Remind teenagers how strong their influence can be when they remain under God’s call and care. Offer biblical examples such as Esther, David, and Paul.
- Create opportunities for young people to enlarge their worldview. Together, serve underprivileged people in your community. Adopt a country for which to provide clean water, clothing, or food. Become involved in a social-justice issue that resonates with your family.

By Darren Sutton

INTRODUCING PURPOSE

Teenagers can be driven and motivated yet still need purpose. Whether young people are drifting or directed, embracing the “why” of what they invest in helps them define purpose.

When your kids are asking to be involved in a club, group, or movement, ask them questions such as:

What appeals to you about this opportunity?

What will you bring to this organization that could be unique in fulfilling its mission?

If you could invest in only one or two areas, would this be one of them? Why or why not?

Helping teenagers pinpoint what matters most helps them define their God-given purpose and calling.



IN THEIR WORLD

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT VIDEO GAMES

In a recent podcast for TheParentCue.org, Jon Acuff details three questions parents should ask about the games their kids play:

What's the content? What objective or aim are you trying to accomplish by completing this game or level?

What's the commitment? How much time is required to master this game?

What's the connection? Are you plugging into any online groups or communities?

To see the original video-short, visit theparentcue.org/technology-tip-ask-questions-about-video-games/.



GAMES THEY'LL ASK FOR

If your kids are gamers, they'll probably be requesting these titles, slated for release just in time for Christmas.

Halo 5: Guardians—This first-person shooter game picks up eight months after the events of *Halo 4: Spartan Ops*. Staying true to the franchise's original story lines, it features fighting mostly against alien species controlling other planets. *Halo 5*, for Xbox One, features multi-player capability online. Rated T (teen) for blood, mild language, and violence.

Call of Duty: Black Ops III—Another first-person shooter game, this is a sequel to the 2012 version. Warfare has been reduced to ground fighting, which

provides the backdrop for this game. Multi-player options include specific war campaigns, zombie modes, and more. The game is compatible with Windows, Xbox systems, and PlayStation 3 and 4. Rated M (mature, 17) for blood and gore, drug reference, intense violence, and strong language.

Star Wars: Battlefront—Just ahead of the big-screen release of another "Star Wars" saga, this multi-player game is exceeding pre-order expectations. Releasing for PlayStation and Xbox (plus an online version), it allows gamers to engage in familiar air battles playing as some of the movie's most iconic characters. Rated T (teen) for violence.

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm Grades 7-12	2	3	4 Christmas Break	5
6	7	8 The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm Grades 7-12	9	10	11 Christmas Break	12
13	14	15 Camo Christmas Party! The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm	16	17	18 Christmas Break	19
20	21	22 Christmas Break	23	24	25 Christmas Break	26
27	28	29 Christmas Break	30	31	1 Christmas Break	2
3	4	5 Christmas Break ***** New Year Kick Off! January 12, 7pm	6	7	8 Christmas Break ***** *** F56 New Year Kickoff	9



Merry Christmas, Families!

Whether your holiday is bustling or simple, whether you're traveling or stay-cationing, whether you're done shopping or haven't even started yet—Merry Christmas!

Take a few moments to focus on the reason we celebrate Christmas. Remember the love Jesus has for you and your family. Say a quick prayer of thanks.

The next time you see a nativity scene, know that Jesus has a specific plan for you and your teenagers. Thank you for allowing us to be a small part of that plan.

As we all slow down for a week or two at Christmas, remember that we're always praying for you.

Merry Christmas, and we'll see you in 2016!

Pastor Tim Busse
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