



PARENT CONNECT

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PARENTS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

SEPT 2015



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH APPLE FUNDRAISER!

Order forms available at guest services and on KAC website

YOUTH KICKOFF

September 15, 2015
7PM (meet in new Ministry Centre)

F56 KICKOFF

Friday, September 18
6:30-8pm (meet in new Ministry Centre)

FALL YOUTH RETREAT AT EAGLE BAY CAMP!

Oct 2-4, 2015.
Registrations available at Guest Services and at Youth on Tuesday nights.

TAKE PRIDE

Teenagers want to hear many things from their parents: “I love you.” “Thank you.” “Here’s 20 bucks.”

But one phrase they need to hear abundantly is “I’m proud of you.”

At school, kids are a number or, worse yet, a label. At work, they’re a nametag or maybe just a position. Sometimes they’re merely someone’s little brother or so-and-so’s girlfriend.

In your eyes, kids desperately want to be a hero. They want to know you’re proud of them. And catch that subtlety: proud of them, not just what they do.

It’s easy for parents to identify superstar grades or an amazing athletic moment or a stellar on-stage performance. And teenagers expect our pride and adulation when they achieve at those endeavors.

But more often, kids crave our attention because of who they’re becoming. They want to be noticed because of the character traits they’re building. They silently beg for

applause about the kind of human being they are.

Of course, when teenagers “do something” extraordinary, we praise them. And sometimes we unwittingly send a cue that performance is the only way to elicit our pride. But when parents notice teenagers during moments that are less tangible and more abstract, the impact is profound.

“I’ve noticed how wise you are.” “You’re one of the most gracious people I’ve ever met.” “Loyal—it’s the best word I could use to describe you.” Any of those statements followed by “and I couldn’t be prouder of the person you’re becoming” blesses kids more than “good game” ever will.

Begin seeking out moments that tell your teenagers *who* they are, beyond what they do—and let them know you’re a proud mom or dad!



By Darren Sutton

YOUTH CULTURE



A WORD FROM THE WORD

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

1 Peter 3:3-4 (NLT)

BODY SHAMING

Rachel Taylor, a plus-size woman in Louisiana, recently overheard a teenage shopper mocking a “huge” tank top. It was unintentional, but body-shaming nonetheless. Taylor’s initial reaction was tears, but then she decided to try on and buy the shirt, saying she looked “fierce” in it. Taylor posted a picture of her wearing the shirt to Old Navy’s Facebook page, thanking the retailer for “having adorable clothes for all shapes and sizes.” Taylor advises: “Be kind. Think about others before you speak. And if someone hurts you...move on.”

In related news, the “Don’t Judge Challenge” went viral, sparking lots of backlash. For the challenge, teenagers post videos of themselves with drawn-on unibrows, acne, blackened teeth, etc. After covering the camera, they reveal their true,

“beautiful” selves. Although the idea is that you shouldn’t judge, critics say the challenge itself is judgmental and hypocritical. One person tweeted that it’s “just pretty [people] making fun of [people] who they think are less than perfect.”

The challenge sends the message that self-esteem results from “external validation,” says family therapist Paul Hokemeyer. “What wins in the end is a visual presentation of beauty rather than the strength of character and integrity inherent in human imperfection.” Instead of teens showing off their attractiveness, says psychotherapist Amy Morin, “A more powerful campaign might include teens sharing about inner beauty and talking about what they’re doing to make the world a better place.”

By Stephanie Martin

START TALKING!

Have you ever experienced a moment like that unfortunate encounter in Old Navy? How would you have liked to respond? How is that different from your actual response?

Tell a story about how a friend’s joke hurt you, as an adult, and how you responded.

Has your joking ever unintentionally hurt someone? How did you know? What did you do after finding out?

Why do you think people tend to be so quick to judge others based on outward appearance?

How would you “rate” your own outward appearance? What about your inner beauty or character traits? Which matters most to you, and why?

Scripture links: 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; and 1 Peter 3:3-4.



IN THEIR WORLD

DEATH OF THE PAYPHONE

A recent Pew Research study details teenagers' use of technology and social media. Because the use of mobile devices is so prolific, 92% of teens indicate they go online daily, with 24% admitting to being online "almost constantly."

More than half (56%) of teenagers ages 13 to 17 go online several times a day, and 12% report a once-daily Internet usage. A mere 8% report being online once a week or less.

Mobile devices have fueled the meteoric rise in Internet usage. Nearly three-quarters of teens own or have access to a smartphone, while another 30% have a basic phone. Only 12% of teens report having no phone of their own.



LIFE IS TECHNOLOGY

For young people growing into adulthood in Western culture, technology defines every aspect of their life—social, political, academic, and religious. A few ways electronic media have shaped their collective soul:

- As U.S. teenagers look forward to voting in their first presidential election next year, they're already telling researchers they'd be much more likely to participate if they could vote via smartphone.
- Instagram is the app of choice for the youngest Millennials, but Facebook is still the most popular among all Millennials. Young people say that when they wake up, they tap their Facebook app before any other (25% of females and 17% of males made it their top choice). Email is a close second.
- Texting is the primary form of communication for young people. More than half (59%) say they've texted while

driving. Yet very few (5%) say it's okay to break up with a girlfriend or boyfriend via text. Only 15% think online flirting constitutes cheating.

- One-third (32%) of Millennials say they've sexted someone, but fewer (22%) have actually sent someone a nude photo.
- Millennials feel very strongly about privacy, though much of what they do online is anything but private. If an app shares young people's private information without permission, they'll delete it; 38% say they've done just that.
- Young people are accustomed to "free on the web," but they draw the line at content they're supposed to pay for. Eighty percent say they've never downloaded music, movies, or TV shows without paying for them.

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
						Youth apple fundraiser starts today! Order forms at Guest Services and on KAC website
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						KAC Kick Off!
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
KAC Kick Off!		The Edge Youth Ministry Kick Off! 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)			F56 Ministry Kick Off! 6:30-8pm (Grades 5-6)	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)		Worship night 7pm Grade 10 - Young Adults (Ministry Centre)		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
		The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)			F56 Ministry 6:30-8pm (Grades 5-6) EBC Fall Youth Retreat (Gr: 9-12)	EBC Fall Youth Retreat (Grades 9-12)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EBC Fall Youth Retreat (grades 9-12)		The Edge Youth Ministry 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	Apple Fundraiser orders due (last day to order!)			



Hello Parents!

It's Kick Off season here at KAC and we have a lot happening at the Church. Our Youth Ministry is kicking off a new ministry year in style with our New Ministry Center! I am so excited to use this space as it will be a great tool to better disciple your students! If you get a chance, come for a tour on kick off weekend!

As we kick off the year can I make a request? We view our role in your students life as a partnership with you and so we would love to meet you! Please take a moment when dropping off or picking up your student to ask them to introduce you to their Life Group Leader.

As a Youth Pastor I always get valuable insight from you as parents in how to help your child the best and I know our volunteers would benefit the same.

Can't wait to see what God will do this year!

In Christ,

Pastor Tim
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