

## Help your teenagers stay connected to God

A close relationship with God is both the core of our Christian life and our highest end as human beings. As we learn about God and develop intimacy with him, our faith morphs from a "practice" to a lifestyle. Worship and Bible study not only help us experience God, they strengthen us for life's daily challenges.



When *Group Magazine* recently surveyed 20,000 Christian teenagers about their priorities, the top vote-getter was "praying and developing a relationship with God." But many youth ministers were surprised by those survey results. "Kids' actions communicate something different," noted one youth minister. "They're so busy...that it seems the first things to get dropped are the items listed as priorities." Another wrote, "My teens struggle with prayer, and many tell me a relationship with God is hard, confusing, and at times not relevant."

Taking time to "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10) is challenging in our always-on-the-go culture. Kids are surrounded by noise—and have a lot of noise in their hearts. Distractions, worries, fears, and hurts often make a relationship with God more difficult, but they also make it more important.

Kids look to their parents as examples of how to stay connected to God. If you've kept this relationship private, let your teenagers in on ways you stay in touch with God. Also share ways it has sustained you through life's ups and downs, and assure your kids that the same will be true for them, too.



## **DATES TO JOT DOWN!**



### **FREE EVENT!**

**BEACH DAY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH**  
**Free lunch provided**  
**Bus pick up at 10am**  
from Midtown, Orange Park, Camden  
and the new St. Johns location on SR13  
**Bus drop off at 2:30pm**

[www.fuseyouthevents.com](http://www.fuseyouthevents.com)

The poster features a vibrant background of a beach scene with palm trees and a bright yellow sky. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif fonts.

It's already time to register for camp! Submerge is our annual **FUSE Summer Youth Camp**. We will be going to Camp Kalaqua near Gainesville. It's 4 days of fun, friends, and fuego worship sessions!

Some of the cool activities include: Water park, Swimming at Hornsby Spring, Canoeing, Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, Shuffleboard, Soccer, etc.

Every night we will gather as one Youth Group from many campuses to worship and hear great preaching.

**When:** August 8-11, 2010 \* **THERE IS LIMITED SPACE-REGISTER EARLY!\***

**Cost:** \$250 per student. Includes everything but snacks.

**REGISTER AT [CELEBRATION.ORG](http://CELEBRATION.ORG) OR [FUSEYOUTHEVENTS.COM](http://FUSEYOUTHEVENTS.COM), LOOK UNDER SIGNUP AND CLICK ON YOUTH SUMMER CAMP 2010.**

## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Use these discussion starters to connect with your teenagers about connecting with God:

1. How close do you usually feel to God, and why? How do you view him: as a friend? a Savior? a judge? other?
2. What does it mean to “be still” before God? What makes that challenging?
3. What happens in your life when you don’t keep in touch with God? What times and places are best for you to pray, and why?
4. How does reading the Bible make you feel about God? about yourself? What are your favorite verses?
5. How can we encourage others as we walk with God?



## FOCUS ON PRAYER

### PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will keep their relationship with God as a top priority.
2. Your teenagers develop a strong prayer life and dig into God’s Word to grow closer to him.
3. The relationship your kids develop with God will help them persevere during difficulties and will encourage them to reach out to others.
4. Your own connection with God stays strong and that you set a positive example for your teenagers in this area.

### Verse of the Month

**“The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth. He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. The Lord protects all those who love him.” (Psalm 145:18-20)**

We aren’t the only participants in maintaining a relationship with God. Thankfully, he’s in charge of that, too. God gives us a desire to know him. He reaches out by answering our prayers, meeting our needs, and providing fellow Christians to build up our faith. Jesus, who has endured human struggles, intercedes to God on our behalf. And the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, guiding us to truth and true life.

## Going Deeper

**Search Institute researchers surveyed more than 7,000 kids in eight countries (including America) to gauge how teenagers around the world view their relationship with God. Some responses:**

- 55% of teens surveyed say their “spirituality” has grown stronger over the last few years, and 43% of U.S. kids say they’re both spiritual and religious.
- What nourishes teenagers’ spiritual lives?
  - Nature—87%
  - Listening to or playing music—82%
  - The influence of parents—76%
  - Spending time helping others—76%
  - Being alone in a quiet place—74%
  - The influence of friends—71%
- What activities feed kids’ spiritual growth?
  - Reading books—47%
  - Praying—44%
  - Helping others—44%
  - Attending religious worship or prayer services—40%

