

Shore Up Your Kids Against Peer Pressure



As the parents of a teenager, you've undoubtedly noticed that your influence is fading just as the influence of your child's peers is growing. Teenagers have always sought cues and direction from people their own age and attempted to blend in with the "crowd."

According to youth-culture expert Walt Mueller, peer pressure used to involve verbal invitations to do something you knew was wrong. But today, it "typically takes the form of an unspoken expectation to participate in behavior that the vast majority of the peer group believes to be normal and right." These days, Mueller adds, it's much more difficult for kids to go against the flow when the behaviors promoted are no longer sneaky but celebrated.

Teenagers are prone to peer pressure not just because they want to fit in but because their brains are still developing. The pre-frontal cortex, which regulates self-control, emotions, and judging consequences is the last part of the brain to develop. In other words, your adolescent is not yet an adult, so expect an interesting mix of adult thinking ability tainted by immaturity, impulsivity, and inconsistent logic.

Although teenagers are socially and physically vulnerable to peer pressure, you don't need to stand back, hold your breath, and hope for the best. By communicating with your kids and modeling godly behavior, you can help them stand firm against all kinds of temptations.

Use these strategies from author Walt Mueller to encourage and equip teenagers in the midst of their pressure-cooker lives:

- 1. Recognize that negative peer pressure is a spiritual battle that we all fight constantly.** Our behavior can be baffling (see Romans 7:14-24), but Jesus has overcome our struggle with sin (verse 25).
- 2. Model a lifestyle of discipleship.** This shows that following Christ isn't always the easy choice but is always the right choice.
- 3. Listen before offering advice.** Teenagers who sense they've been respected and heard are then more prone to hear you out.
- 4. Encourage kids to get involved in a positive peer group, such as a church youth group.** Leaders and members of these organizations celebrate the narrow path that leads to life. **Friday Nights, 7-11pm at NHBC**
- 5. Affirm kids' worth in your eyes—and God's.** Remind kids that they're "in process," and show them the grace that God has shown you.



If all that people knew about teenagers came from media reports, they probably would speculate that kids are wild risk-takers headed for certain disaster. But consider the flip side of some recent statistics:

- Just more than half of teenagers will experiment with alcohol. That means nearly half won't experiment.
- About 40% of teenagers will try drugs at least once. That means 60% won't try them at all.
- Fewer than 25% of teenagers who try illegal substances regularly use them. That means the majority don't use them. **PRAISE THE LORD!**



Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Let teenagers know you're available to talk about the pressures they're facing. Then be ready to really listen. Start a discussion with these questions:

1. What types of expectations do kids have for one another these days?
2. What are some of the biggest pressures you've faced so far? How easy or difficult has it been to say "no" to each, and why?
3. Do you consider yourself to be a leader or a follower, and why? Have you ever pressured someone? Explain.
4. When you're faced with choices, what decision-making process do you follow? Do you consider all the possible consequences?



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. God will protect your teenagers against negative peer pressure, poor judgment, and harmful consequences.
2. Your teenagers will use their faith to help them resist temptations and pressures to sin.
3. Your teenagers will be influenced by positive peer pressure and will have godly friends who make wise choices.
4. Your teenagers will be positive examples for other young people who wish to live godly lives.

Verse of the month

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

The world is so seductive because it offers a wide variety of pleasures and pursuits. Jesus realizes the temptations we face on earth—and has faced them himself as a man. But he also promises to provide "a way out" so we can "endure" (see 1 Corinthians 10:13). With Jesus' help, we can remain faithful and enter through the narrow gate to heaven.

What's Up With Kids

At SimplyYouthMinistry.com, Jane Dratz, editor for **Dare 2 Share ministries**, discusses the importance of making wise choices:

The questions teenagers wrestle with on a daily basis are incredibly challenging, because these days many choices come with lifelong consequences. Choose poorly in the realm of Internet porn and distort God's blueprint for sex for a lifetime. Go too far and find yourself with an incurable STD or 18 years of child-support payments. Make a wrong choice about drinking or drugs, and risk arrest and a criminal record that can potentially block you out of future college or job opportunities.

When peer pressure seems unbearable and the urge of the moment is battling to reign supreme, how do you respond? As a Christian, the battle is daunting. But take courage in knowing that you aren't entering the battle alone. If you've made the ultimate choice of all choices, to surrender your life to Jesus and live life to the max for God's glory, then you fight the battle with Jesus by your side, guiding, strengthening, and empowering you to take your stand and fight. A real and vibrant relationship with God that serves as the driving force behind your lifestyle choices is the most powerful motivation you can find for owning your choices and choosing wisely.

And consider this piece of good news: The consequences for *good* choices have a ripple effect as well. Your choice to follow Jesus is a great example of this! Let your relationship with Jesus impact the lives of people around you by sharing his truth and grace with others.



XBOX Nailed to a Tree?????????

My husband had repeatedly warned our 3 boys about their behavior while playing the XBOX. Tuesday, after I arrived home from work, our oldest son told me to look in the backyard at "Dad's artwork". Well, I wasn't surprised to see the XBOX proudly displayed on the nearest tree... way to go Honey!!!!

..... He is now selling it on ebay....hahahahaha

MUSICSPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: Kid Rock, born Robert Ritchie, has sold more than 23 million albums in the past 18 years. The 37-year-old rap-rocker from Detroit had mostly a local fan base during the '90s. After much touring and teaming with MTV, Kid Rock became a chart-topping superstar. For his next album, the singer plans a return to his hip-hop roots.

Albums: *Rock N Roll Jesus* (2007), *Live Trucker* (2006), *Kid Rock* (2003)

What Parents Should Know: Kid Rock's style is a wide mix of rap rock, Southern rock, hip-hop, and blues- and country-tinged ballads. Foul language and crude themes permeate much of his music. Kid Rock is also known for angry outbursts and a rocky relationship with ex-wife Pamela Anderson.

What Kid Rock Says: "My kid's grandchildren are set for life. But I also tell my son, 'You see how your dad is; if you think any of this is going to get left behind, you're nuts, because I'm going out with a bang, buddy.'"

Christian Artist

Background: Todd Agnew, 37, is a contemporary Christian singer-songwriter with a rock-indie sound. He has a laidback style and even performs barefoot, but his lyrics are serious and insightful. Agnew's hits include "Grace Like Rain" and "My Jesus," and his latest album features "Our Great God," a duet with fellow Christian artist Rebecca St. James.

Albums: *Better Questions* (2007), *Do You See What I See?* (2006), *Reflection of Something* (2005), *Grace Like Rain* (2003)

What Parents Should Know: Agnew's songs will make kids think. *Better Questions* is a passionate response to tough questions about God, such as "Why does God still care for us when we keep messing up?" It's obvious that Agnew wrestles with the very questions he poses.

What Agnew Says: "I'm just trying to get some questions out there, the questions people are afraid to ask in church, but also to get the questions asked sincerely and without anger."

Discussion Questions: What questions do you have about God, faith, and heaven? Do those questions ever scare you? How comfortable are you answering your friends' questions about God? Is it okay to admit when you don't know the answers?

***For more review on current music & movies check out the links below:**

<http://www.pluggedinonline.com/music/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/music/features/reviews.html>
<http://christiananswers.net/spotlight/home.html>

FILMWATCH

SON OF RAMBOW

A runaway audience smash at the Sundance Film Festival, *SON OF RAMBOW* described as a hilariously fresh and visually inventive take on friendship, family, film heroes and the death-defying adventures of growing up in the video age. It all begins in 1980s Britain, when young Will Proudfoot, raised in isolation among The Brethren, a puritanical religious sect in which music and TV are strictly forbidden, encounters something beyond his wildest fantasies: a pirated copy of *RAMBO: FIRST BLOOD*. His virgin viewing of the iconic thriller blows his mind – and rapidly expanding imagination – wide open. Now, Will sets out to join forces with the seemingly diabolical school bully, Lee Carter, to make their own action epic, devising wildly creative, on-the-fly stunts, not to mention equally elaborate schemes for creating a movie of total commitment and non-stop thrills while hiding out from The Brethren. But when school popularity finally descends on Will and Lee in the form of, oui, the super-cool French exchange student, Didier Revol, their remarkable new friendship and precious film are pushed, quite literally, to the breaking point ...



The film is **rated PG-13** for some violence and senseless behavior. Most of the violence is comedic, when mishaps occur on the set of the movie. The most graphic violence is from the clips of the film that Lee Carter and Will base their movie on. Most Christians will find the references to this group "the Brethren" too broad to warrant any personal offense. There are a few obscenities and the use of God's name in vain in a couple circumstances. There is a scene where Will uses his Bible as a sketch book to illustrate and draw storyboards for the film they are creating. Some parents may be upset by some of the lengths Will goes to in order to deceive his mother, but it's an issue at the heart of the film that may generate a conversation about choices between parent and children who see this film. As a family film in a season about to be inundated by Summer Block-Busters, a family could do much worse, both in terms of quality and content. The film would probably be best suited for teens and mature adolescents. (ChristianAnswers.net)

September 2008

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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28	29	30				
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(n)Fusion- Friday Nights 7-11pm

6pm Worship team practice

Small Group Bible Studies:

Wednesday nights (Middle School) 7-8pm

Mark your Calendar!

September

5- ***Change of event-** Back to School tailgating @ Skyline HS (6pm free hotdogs 7:30 game starts, SHS vs WCHS)

12- Cool Beans Coffee House (starts at 7pm a family event)

13- Awaking Fest (music festival) **\$16 ticket-** last day to *sign up at the youth bulletin board to get this group rate is Sept 5. Please make sure to get your money in by Sept 5!*

24- See You At The Pole **Wednesday, September 24, at 7 a.m., Home Schoolers 9am at the WC court house flagpole Students **GATHER** at their school flagpole. **PRAY** for their school, friends, families, and world. **CONNECT**. Listen as He speaks to them.**

October

5- Worship at the Park

24-26- ScareMare Fall Retreat

The 5th Page

when there is just 2 much info for the normal 4 pages



I don't like fundraisers ...do you? If you do then we need to talk. Scrip is the answer to no more fundraisers.... Yes, I said no fundraisers! Scrip is simple you purchase gift cards to the businesses you go to every week and the youth ministry receives a percentage off the top of your purchase. Example: Martins Card \$50 – you pay \$50 the youth group will receive 4% Your card is worth \$50 and you use it like a credit card.

Simple Huh? Questions ask Jennifer or myself on Sunday at the rear of the sanctuary. An pick up an order form.



The ScareMare Fall retreat is a fun service project for the teens of our church. Your teen will go though the ScareMare house on Friday night where they will see scenes of death in the haunted house and at the end will see the crucifixion scene and then hear the gospel message. Saturday they will get the opportunity to play paint ball or go horseback riding at a local camp and then in the evening be actors in the ScareMare house. Sunday they will serve the ministry by cleaning the grounds and doing various tear down projects on the grounds. All the teens & adults that attended last year had a blast and have told me they are looking forward to this years retreat.

Help still needed on Friday nights!

Help is needed every Friday night by parents in areas of security. A major goal I have is to make sure that we have a safe & secure environment for the students coming on Friday nights and to do that I need your help. I need at least 4-5 volunteers every Fri. night. People signed up so far:

1st Friday

Jeff Himelright- open

3rd Friday

Kim Houser- gym
Jeff H. – open

4th Friday

Jeff H. – open

5th Friday (on occasion)

Jeff H.- open

Areas of Security & Help

Front Door/ Monitor Outside
Gym
Auditorium

Kitchen- snack donations & serving students
snacks



Help Needed!

We are looking for hostess/servers for Sat Friendship Breakfast. We are asking the girls who can help to come at to the church by 8:15AM-10:15AM

We need help is seating the Women and serving breakfast.

Grace,
Sherry

For more information check out our website:

www.nfusionyouth.com

Copies of this newsletter are available at the information desk located at the rear of the Fellowship Hall.

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