

BEHIND THE SCENES

YOUNG TEEN SCENE



FALL QUARTER



News & Views

Teen Activities

A Barna Research Group study showed the following trends in teen religious activities:

- Nearly 9 out of 10 teens pray weekly.
- 35% of teens read the Bible each week, not including when they are in church.
- 18% read from a religious text other than the Bible in any week.

Work with your pastor to take a poll of young teens in your church. Ask the following:

- How often do you pray?
- How often do you read the Bible?
- Why do you read it when you do, usually?
- What would make you read it more often?
- Have you ever read other religious texts?
- What were they?

Trivia

The Bible before Copiers

A little bit of Bible history here for quiz maniacs. Answers are at the bottom.

1. What are the oldest existing copies of pieces of several Old Testament books called?
2. What Bible, now in the British Museum, is the oldest complete Bible in existence?
3. What English king ordered Bible translator Tyndale executed and then had a translation dedicated to him by Tyndale's friend Coverdale?
4. What large English Bible, published in 1539, was chained to the reading desk in English churches?
5. What former monk made a translation of the Bible into German that was loved for centuries?
6. What medieval Archbishop of Canterbury is largely responsible for dividing the Bible into chapters?
7. What French Protestant, while riding on horseback from Paris to Lyons, first divided the New Testament into verses?
8. What Bible was the one most likely used by Shakespeare and the Pilgrims?
9. What was the Standing Fishes Bible?
10. What was the Bug Bible?



Life Aerobics

Books for teens who want to dig deeper:

- *Facing Down the Tough Stuff* by Karen Dockrey (Chariot/Victor Books).

Discover Biblical answers so you can help your friends overcome the tough stuff they face.

- *Caution: Dangerous Devotions* by Jackie Perseghetti (Chariot/Victor Books) takes you on an adventure through the New Testament.

These devotions could make you grow in every area of your life.

Available at your local Christian bookstore.

Source: *The Barna Research Group, Ltd.*, 1999

From: *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia*. By: J. Stephen Lang, 1988. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.
 10. Coverdale's Bible (1535), which has this translation for Psalm 91:5, "Thou shalt not need to be afraid for any bugs by night."
 9. An 1806 printing in which Ezekiel 47:10 reads, "And it shall come to pass that the fishes shall stand upon it." It should read "fishers."
 8. The Geneva Bible.
 7. Robert Estienne.
 6. Martin Luther.
 5. The Great Bible.
 4. The Great Bible.
 3. Henry VIII.
 2. Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae (say that three times real fast).
 1. The Dead Sea Scrolls.



parent is one of the hardest things I do.” They’re probably as nervous as you are.

- **Lead off with a question.** This gives the discussion a launching pad, shows your interest, and takes the pressure off you to talk.
- **Listen.** If you don’t listen to them, they won’t listen to you.
- **Don’t force it.** If your parents answer your question with a grunt and say nothing for 15 minutes, that’s a sign to try again later.
- **If it bombs, let it go and try again with a different topic in a few days.** Talking takes practice. If you keep coming back with questions, your parents may think, *Hey, my kid really wants to talk*, and start opening up.

Source: *The Quicksilver Years*, pp.197, 213, 219–220

▼ Quote

I just owe almost everything to my father.

—Margaret Thatcher

▼ Sneak Preview

There are books, and then there are books. You know—“books” are thin, have big type, and lots of pictures. *“Books”* are *thick*, have *tiny type*, and *no pictures*.

The Bible is a *“book.”* (I figured this out myself.) Maybe that, plus the fact that it’s old, is a *little* of the reason some of us seldom read it.

Whatever the reason, I’ve decided that a lot of us fear the Bible more than we need to. And we would outgrow our fear if we simply stopped wimping out and learned how to use it.

So as we go through Unit 1 this quarter, we’ll learn things to do when studying the Bible that’ll make it more approachable.

In Unit 2, we’ll tackle the topic of family relationships. What does God expect of a family? What does He expect of me? How can I make my family better? Some answers to those and other questions are what you’ll find in Unit 2.

And as school winds up, may you keep your eyes on Jesus and your feet in His immediate neighborhood. God bless ya.

The Editors

▼ Family Survival 101

How to talk to your parents

Most parents and young teens want to talk to each other about important issues—but never do. That’s what one survey of young adolescents and their parents found. In general, they wished they talked more about:

- how the teen dresses and wears his or her hair
- drugs or alcohol
- the teen’s friends
- school
- the teen’s ideas of right and wrong
- the teen’s questions about romance

Why parents and teens don’t talk

What keeps families from communicating? There are usually four reasons

- **Lack of skills.** “I don’t know how.”
- **Lack of diplomacy.** “Whenever we talk, we fight.”
- **Lack of a trigger event.** “It never comes up.”
- **Lack of courage.** “I’m scared of bringing it up.”

What you can do

What can you do to break the lockjaw? Keeping in mind that it’ll never be easy, here are a few tips on bringing up tough topics with your parents.

- **Turn off the TV.** Heavy conversations don’t happen with it on.
- **Realize that it takes guts.** Eighty-six percent of mothers and 76 percent of fathers say “To be a good

The Investigation Begins

Day 1

9:00 P.M. The phone rang. Before I picked it up, I knew something was wrong. Before I could say “Cluze Investigations,” a hysterical voice interrupted.

“Several pages of a priceless ancient manuscript are missing from the Brice University Library!”

Apparently someone had taken the parchment from storage and attempted to copy it. When discovered, the culprit fled with the original. My client didn’t give me many clues, so I got over to Brice U. as soon as I could.

10:03 P.M. I arrived just as the librarian was locking the door. A little sweet talk and I was inside. The place was clean. No clues to the identity of the thief. But I did learn something about the goods involved. Two pages, wadded up in the trash can, gave me some important facts about this mysterious manuscript. Turn the page to see what conclusions I came to.

