



# GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE

YOUTH PASTOR'S GUIDE

## ABOUT THE U.S. TEENS



410 Digitally  
Connected Teens



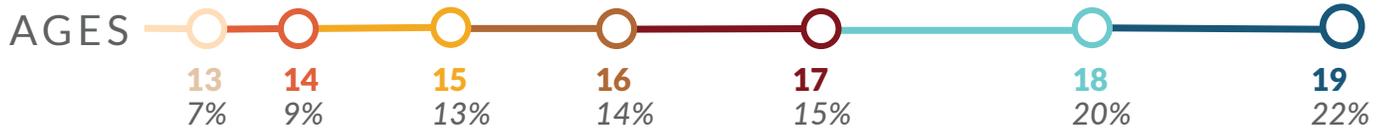
Ages  
13-19



72 Items  
Surveyed



MALE 49%  
FEMALE 51%



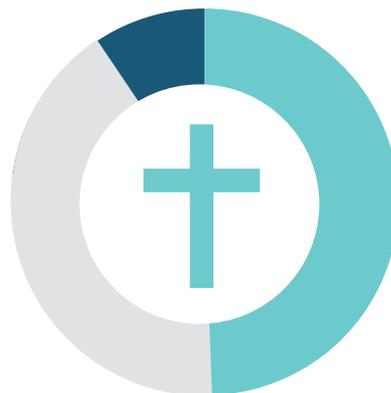
## ABOUT THEIR BELIEFS

OTHER RELIGION **11%**

Muslim 12% • Buddhist 5% • Hindu 4%

NO RELIGION **39%**

Atheist 14% • None 17% • Agnostic 8%



CHRISTIAN **50%**

# YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Even though 51% of teens surveyed self-identified as Christian, just 8% displayed the beliefs and habits of a Committed Christian.

Who is a Committed Christian Teen you may ask? Well, these teens' answers aligned with the following criteria:

## 6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



*\* Note that these teens self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witness or Mormon. Committed Christians may be Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Orthodox, or a number of other denominations.*

These actions and beliefs are foundational to a healthy faith walk. So where's the disconnect? Let's take a closer look at their responses toward religious attitudes and beliefs.

- **46%** of Christian teens say they **never read the Bible**.
- **58%** of Christian teens we surveyed **disagreed that they have a responsibility to share their faith** or religious beliefs with others.
- **Nearly half** of U.S. teens (45%) believe **all religions teach equally valid truths** — and the same amount of Christian teens agree with them!

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We need to help get teenagers plugged into real truth: the Bible. There are steps to take that can help the next generation engage with God's Word. Check out these resources, or brainstorm other ways you can help them to see the value of Scripture.

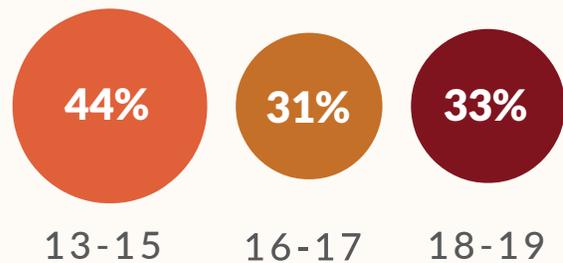
- **Create small groups** of 2-3 teenagers and encourage them to complete a YouVersion Bible plan together – you could add some additional incentive by offering a prize for the groups who complete it.
- **Utilize Feed Small Group Resources** – these free materials help students engage in conversations around the Bible .
- **Think of a social media campaign** your students can participate in and share with their friends. The goal is to create intrigue among their friends so they will ask about the meaning behind the post.

## IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT ...

**35% of teens in the U.S. reported having suicidal thoughts in the past 3 months—** the highest rate in the world across the 20 countries we surveyed.

This should stop you in your tracks. 1 in 3 teens said this! Sadly, this number could be even higher now, since this survey was taken before many of the social distancing and lockdown measures were put into place because of COVID-19.

### SUICIDAL THOUGHTS BY AGE



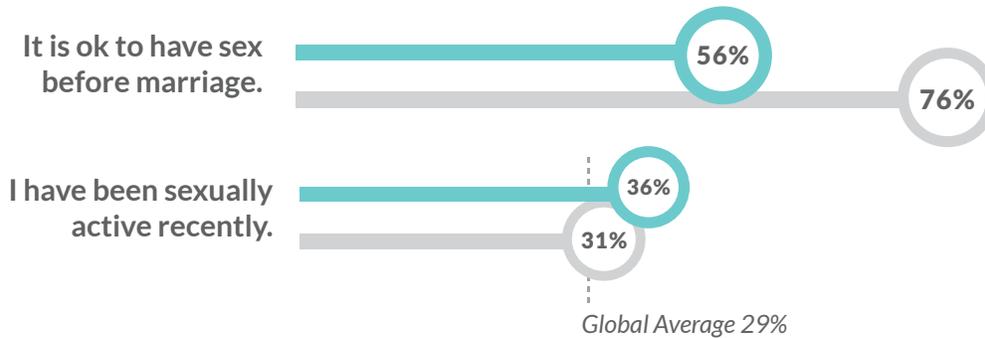
It truly is a mental health crisis. We need to be creating safe spaces for teenagers. Practically speaking, if a teen in your youth group expresses thoughts of self-harm, do you have an action plan of how you are going to handle it? How are you going to get them help?

# IT'S IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU...

**Christian teens report being more sexually active** than non-Christian teens. Yes, you read that right.

## CHRISTIAN TEEN Q & A

CHRISTIAN  
NON-CHRISTIAN



This was a shocker to us too, and on a related topic, 45% of Christian U.S. teens have looked at pornographic material recently. Clearly, sexual temptation is a serious struggle teens are facing, and many of them are acting on it.



**45%** OF CHRISTIAN U.S. TEENS HAVE LOOKED AT PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL RECENTLY.

### PAUSE AND REFLECT:

Clearly, sexual temptation is a serious struggle teens are facing, and many of them are acting on it. The Church has the responsibility to shine light and truth on these topics. Now that you know this information, how is it going to change the way you address these topics with teenagers or bring their guardians into the conversation?

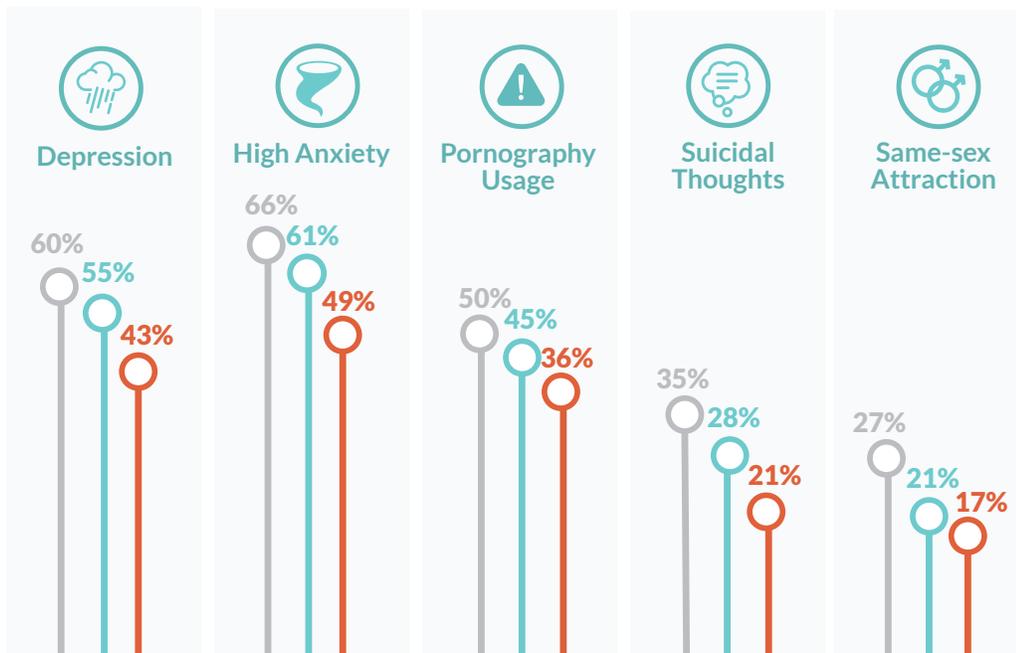
# NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS...

Teens told us that regularly engaging with a community of believers helped them have a more positive outlook on life. The Church is making a difference! See how **personal struggles trend downward when teens are plugged into a faith community.**

## 6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

■ US TEENS ■ CHRISTIAN TEENS ■ CHURCHGOING CHRISTIAN TEENS\*

*Within the past three months, I have experienced:*



\* Report they are at church once a month or more frequently

It's also encouraging that most unchurched teens are open to attending church if someone invited them.

- Nearly half (45%) said they would be interested in attending.
- 33% saying they would consider it.
- 1 in 5 said they would not be interested.

# MEET THE “NONES” ...

2 out of every 5 teens in the U.S. claim no religion – sometimes this group is referred to as the “nones.” This category includes atheists and agnostics.



1 in 3 “nones” say their faith beliefs or spiritual journeys are an important part of their identity.

60% say they know Christians and consider them kind and caring.



45% say they never think about God; 27% believe in cosmic forces like good and evil, but not in a personal God.



2 in 3 “nones” would consider coming to church if someone invited them.



Only 1 in 10 hold a hostile view of Jesus, and more than 1 in 4 say He is the Son of God.

42% would change their mind about a religious belief if they had a personal experience such as an answer to prayer.



## PAUSE AND REFLECT:

How can you encourage your teens to invite their friends to church? Clearly they are open to the invitation, the largest hurdle is simply having the courage to ask. How can you create opportunities and spaces for teens to feel excited about bringing their friends?



That’s all we have for you in this guide, but there is SO much more to learn about U.S. teens in the full report. See what teens think about social media, how often they attend church, their views on gender and identity, and much more.

Visit [www.globalyouthculture.net](http://www.globalyouthculture.net) today.

