

RAISING **IGNORANT** KIDSYOUTH CULTURE
HOT QUOTE

“[Social media] has never felt natural to me ... Both my husband and I have been in a place in our careers where we have to share so much. And we can handle it. But when you love something so much, you want to protect it more than anything in the world. And for me, that’s my relationship, that’s my kids.”

Hannah Jeter, on why she and husband Derek choose not to share photos of their daughters on social media, *Editorialist*, Holiday 2019 edition



In hindsight, I have to confess that I was an incredibly ignorant teenager. I remember lamenting my parents’ lack of knowledge on just about everything. As the years passed, my own experience echoed that of Mark Twain, who once wrote, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

The dictionary defines *ignorance* as a “lack of knowledge or information.” It is being unaware, uneducated, or unknowledgeable. Our children and teens are especially susceptible to making the kinds of life-altering mistakes rooted in ignorance. One reason for this is their young age. With youthfulness comes a lack of the kind of experience and learning that lead to wisdom and knowledge. In addition, their developing God-given cognitive abilities lead them, like they did the teenage version of me, to believe that they are wiser and more knowledgeable than anyone else.

Way back in 1652, a wise man by the name of Thomas Brooks wrote a classic book – *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices* – about the strategies the enemy of God uses in an effort to undermine our faith and ultimately undo us. Brook’s tells us that one of Satan’s strategies is to destroy us by leading us into ignorance through the neglect of reading God’s Word. What results? Brooks writes, “Ignorance is the mother of mistake, the cause of trouble, error, and of terror; it is the highway to hell, and it makes man both a prisoner and a slave to the devil at once. . . A man without knowledge is as a workman without his hands, as a painter without his eyes, as a traveler without his legs, or as a ship

without sails, or a bird without wings, or like a body without a soul.”

Frightening words, for sure. That’s not at all who I want to be. Neither is it what I want for my kids. What then, are some simple antidotal steps we can take with our kids to prevent this kind of ignorance while facilitating the kind of knowledge that lead to their flourishing?

First, we must eliminate our own ignorance. I have come to realize that there is no more important task to be pursued on a daily basis than to seek to know the mind and heart of God. And the path to that end begins and ends with endeavoring to know and grow in a knowledge of His Word. And may I be bold enough to challenge the “I don’t have time” excuse that we all, myself included, use? What if we began by sacrificing 15 to 30 minutes of our daily screen-time to immerse ourselves without distraction into God’s Word?

Second, we must speak what we are learning. In Deuteronomy 6 we learn that we are to diligently teach the Word of the Lord to our children. Our teaching must be a 24/7 endeavor as we *speak and live* God’s will and way before our children’s eyes and ears. You see, just as their age makes them susceptible to ignorance, they are even more susceptible to knowledge. Their hearts have been made for it. They are hungry for it. And we are the ones called to spread a buffet of knowledge on their plates.

Finally, we must train them to read, study, and learn on their own. By reading the Scriptures together as a family, we are instilling habits *and* knowledge, as these habits will bear fruit in knowledge. *

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



TOP 10...

Most Popular Google Searches

by Americans in 2019
Source:
Google



1. **Disney Plus**
2. **Cameron Boyce**
3. **Nipsey Hussle**
4. **Hurricane Dorian**
5. **Antonio Brown**
6. **Luke Perry**
7. **“Avengers: Endgame”**
8. **“Game of Thrones”**
9. **iPhone 11**
10. **Jussie Smollett**



QUICK STATS

11% of high school seniors reported misusing prescription drugs in the past year, and 44% of those reporting misuse had multiple sources for the drugs.

(Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)

2/3 of teens who misused pain relievers in the past year say that they got them from family and friends, including their home's medicine cabinets.

(Partnership for Drug-Free Kids)

FROM THE NEWS:

CULTURAL MESSAGES REGARDING GENDER

51-year-old singer Celine Dion recently released a gender-neutral line of children's clothing in partnership with unisex clothing brand, Nununu. Dion says the brand is designed to liberate children from the traditional roles of boys and girls. A highly controversial commercial shows Dion walking through a hospital maternity ward. She dispenses black glitter in the direction of the pink and blue clad newborns. Magically, gender now becomes indistinguishable as they are all clad in the gender-neutral clothing. We recommend you take note of this development for two reasons. First, this is one more reflection of how our culture is encouraging a departure from binary genders of male and female. And second, since Dion is older, this move reflects how these new beliefs are not just limited to the young. Parents, teach your children God's order and design for gender, that he created them either male or female. True freedom is found as we live into and for God's purpose and design.

TRENDS: YOUNGER SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP

The recently released Common Sense Census offers helpful insights into the ways that our children and teens are using media. One of the most interesting and perhaps concerning findings is the age of initial smartphone ownership. Back in 2015, it wasn't until the age of 13 that the scales tipped over the halfway point, with 50% of 13-year-olds owning their own smartphone. At the time, we issued warnings

to parents, encouraging them to be careful about putting smartphones into the hands of their kids too soon.

The reason? Smartphones take our kids onto a digital playground that can be healthy, but can also be very dangerous, with all kinds of temptations and traps. The latest research says that in today's world, the tipping point is now lower. 53% of our 11-year-olds now have their own smartphone. Parents, teach your kids to use their phones in ways that glorify God. And, don't give them too much technology too soon.



LATEST RESEARCH: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

It will come as no surprise to you that attitudes and behaviors related to marriage have morphed over time in our culture. When the stigma related to divorce began to wane on the heels of the 1960s sexual revolution, divorce was on the rise. The latest research indicates that 38% of women, and 39% of men, say that divorce is usually the best solution when a couple can't seem to work out

their marriage problems. In the Bible, the creator of marriage does allow for divorce in situations of infidelity, abuse, and abandonment. But in today's feelings oriented world, far too many Christians take what's perceived to be the easy way out of marriage when the going gets rough. Here's a reality that we must preach to ourselves and our kids: marriage is a

commitment. Love is a commitment, and not a feeling. A marriage is two broken people coming together as one with the Lord serving as the glue that holds us together. Let's teach our kids that marriage is a glorious, sometimes difficult mystery.

COLLEGE TRANSITION INITIATIVE

a resource of CPYU

www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com



Lasting Faith: Vocational Discipleship

by Walt Mueller



David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock's book *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*, explores the five ministry practices churches and families must pursue to lead kids into life-long faith. The research done by Kinnaman and Matlock indicates that one of the five practices is to ground and motivate our kids through training for vocational discipleship. This means that they know and live out God's calling on their lives, especially in the arena of work while conforming their ambitions to God's purposes.

In today's world, the culture teaches our kids to pursue work and vocation as a passport to privilege. Rather than seeing work as a way to serve God and further His kingdom, our work is about making money, pursuing fame, and building up the kingdom of me, myself, and I. One of the key opportunities facing the 21st century church is to help kids learn that they have been made for something, and that something is a life where faith is integrated into their work.

New Podcast

Youth Culture Matters
is a long-format
podcast from CPYU
co-hosted by Walt Mueller
and Jason Soucinek.



Listen at
www.cpyu.org/podcast.

Be sure to check out
Episode 95 titled
“Your Sexuality Is Not Who
You Are” with Christopher
Yuan

FROM THE WORD

From The Word: In the Old Testament book of Micah, there is a sobering exchange going on between God and His covenant people. God calls them out for their unfaithfulness. They respond, trying to justify themselves by listing several of their religious practices, including their attendance at worship and their sacrifices. God’s answer to them is one that we must hear and heed today: What God tells them He desires is not their rituals and sacrifices, but rather the obedience of their hearts.

God, through the prophet Micah, lays out three basic responses He desires from His people as a result of His covenant love. First, He requires them to “do justice.” We are not to mistreat others, doing what is right to others, even when it is costly to us. Second, he requires them to “love kindness.” We are to be merciful and generous to those who are weak and less fortunate. And finally, God requires them to “walk humbly with your God.” We are to put aside our pride and bent towards self-rule in order to humbly endeavor to bring our lives into conformity to God’s will.

This year, determine to live out your faith in ways that glorify God while offering your kids a clear view of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

**“AND WHAT DOES THE
LORD REQUIRE OF YOU
BUT TO DO JUSTICE,
AND TO LOVE KINDNESS,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY
WITH YOUR GOD.”
MICAH 6:8 (ESV)**

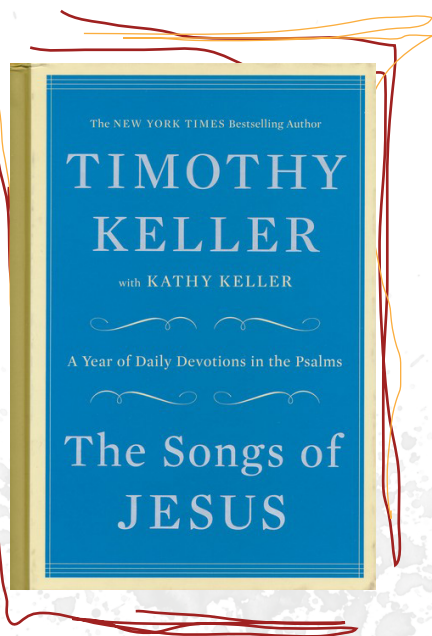
HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

The Songs of Jesus offers inspiration every day for an entire year based on the Book of Psalms. Each day readers will encounter a fresh, inspiring lesson from one of the most beloved books in the Bible. The Book of Psalms is known as the Bible’s songbook — Jesus knew all 150 psalms intimately, and relied on them to face every situation, including his death.

Two decades ago, Tim Keller began reading the entire Book of Psalms every month. *The Songs of Jesus* is based on his accumulated years of study, insight, and inspiration recorded in his prayer journals. Kathy Keller came to reading the Psalms as a support during an extended illness. Together they have distilled the meaning of each verse, inviting readers into the vast wisdom of the Psalms.

If you have no devotional life yet, this book is a wonderful way to start. If you already spend time in study and prayer, understanding every verse of the Psalms will bring you to a new level of intimacy with God, unlocking your purpose within God’s kingdom.

Join CPYU President, Walt Mueller, and others in our “CPYU Together In The Word” Facebook group as we read this daily devotional book together as a community. Search for the community on Facebook or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/570046043809638/>



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