



May - The Landing Newsletter

HomeWord -

Teens who use social media are exposed to a wide variety of faith and values expressions from friends and those they follow. In a culture that places high value on tolerance and acceptance, and have peers who regularly hold non-traditional beliefs and values, it appears that today's teenagers are more likely to embrace a syncretic approach to their own belief systems.

A recent study appearing in the journal *Sociological Perspectives* suggests that teenagers who use social media are more likely to employ a "pick-and-choose" style for their beliefs than peers who do not use social media. Most recent data indicates that about eight in ten teens today use social media. The researchers determined that social media users were 50 to 80 percent more likely to be open to a variety of religious beliefs and practices.

Lead researcher Paul K. McClure, of Baylor University said, "...the Facebook effect is that all spiritual options become commodities and resources that individuals can tailor to meet their needs."

Consequently, teens who use social media are less likely to feel beholden to the faith in which they were raised and are more likely to take bits and pieces from other religions that they find are a good fit for them personally.

Now What?

- Engage your kids frequently in morals, values, and faith conversations. These discussions help to transfer, build, and cement your teen's belief system. The stronger their understanding of and commitment to being a Christ-follower, the less likely she or he will "pick-and-choose" from other religious beliefs and practices.
 - Make your home a safe place for your teens to talk about faith issues. Don't belittle or lecture them during the typical adolescent season of faith development where they have a lot of questions and doubts. Walk alongside them and provide them with supportive encouragement. Take the role of a fellow-learner instead of a teacher by helping them find the answers to their questions.
 - Surround your kids with plenty of healthy role models for faith. Of course, your kids are watching your example, but give them more! Let them rub shoulders with other Christ-followers – both adults and peers - who you know provide healthy examples of integrity, authenticity, and faith.
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Global 6K For Water

May 18

9am

LOCATION: @The Church

The Evangelical Covenant denomination has a sweet partnership in DR Congo with World Vision, one of the leading relief agencies. As a part of that partnership we participate in World Vision's annual Global 6K For Water. Why 6K? That is the average distance women and kids have to walk (sometimes more than once a day) to access water. This water is oftentimes contaminated and makes them sick. So we will walk in solidarity and to raise money to provide clean, accessible water to families in the Gemena area of Congo. Every \$50 raised will provide clean water for one person!

You and your family can run, walk or ride the 6K course, which starts at the church and winds through the neighborhood.

\$10/perosn - Register online: www.clairemontcov.org



<https://www.youtube.com/watch/0IGQ-IYMd8A>



Adventure Week

June 24 - June 28

LOCATION: @The Church

Adventure Week is our Vacation Bible School that we host every year for kids going into Kindergarten - 6th grade. We are only able to pull it off because each year we have an awesome, small army of Middle School and High School students that volunteer! We'd love to have your student (or even you!) help us out this summer. Bonus: If they need community service hours for school, this counts!

Sign up online: www.clairemontcov.org/adventure-week/

MIDDLE SCHOOL ALPINE SUMMER CAMP: Unfortunately we weren't able to pull together a crew for Middle School summer camp this year at Alpine. So we'll plan some local stuff throughout the summer instead!



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