

## 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?



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.

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### 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.

## Protect Your Student from Internet Dangers

As your students start back to school, they will face many dangers and challenges, from peer pressure about drugs to academics. One such danger comes from the Internet. As your student begins to do research for classes or chats with friends on Facebook, they are opened up to a host of invaders that would love nothing more than to destroy their innocence and sometimes their very lives. With this in mind, it is important to protect your children. Many parents have installed filters on their home computers and feel this is adequate protection from pop-ups and predatory websites. However, many students now have the knowledge to navigate around filters and still make it to websites that are unsafe. The most important tool you have as a parent is knowledge of the websites that your students are viewing. Don't ever let a student take the computer into his or her bedroom where the screen is not in your view. Keep it in a common area such as the living room or the dining room. Another help is a service offered by [www.xxxchurch.com](http://www.xxxchurch.com) (This is a valid website, I promise). This website is designed to help men of all ages with accountability. You can download a program (X3 Watch) onto your computer that will send you an email once a month informing you of any questionable websites that were visited on your computer. There are free versions as well as versions you must pay for. This not only creates accountability but the opportunity to talk with your teens about the dangers of internet sites and internet predators. The Internet is a vital part of your child's education so be proactive in protecting them from the dangers that lurk on the next webpage.

Cory Majors  
Student Pastor  
IBC GO Center

## MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



### 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.'"

**Discussion Questions:** What do you think it would be like to be "set for life"? What, if anything, do you expect your parents to leave you? What do you want to be known for? What type of legacy do you hope to leave for your children?



### 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?

## FILMWATCH

**Movie:** My Best Friend's Girl (releases Sept. 19)

**Genre:** Comedy

**Rating:** R (for strong, graphic language and sexual content, including some nudity)

**Synopsis:** Tank (Dane Cook), a master at offending women, hires himself out when guys get dumped. He takes the ex-girlfriend on the worst date of her life so she'll run back to her boyfriend. While trying to help his best friend, Tank meets Alexis (Kate Hudson), whom he ultimately falls for. Tank is torn between loyalty to his best friend and love for his best friend's girl.

**Discussion Questions:** How loyal are you to your friends? Would you do anything for them? Why or why not? What would you do if your best friend asked you to do something you know is wrong? Which is more important to you: love or friendship? Explain.



## Ministry Spotlight: Life Groups

This coming month starts a new chapter for Shift Student Ministries. September 14<sup>th</sup> students will be participating in Life Groups on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Parents may drop off students at 5:30 to enable them to get to their own Life groups. These groups will be separated into middle school and high school divisions. The middle school groups will be starting a discipleship process called Moving Toward Maturity. The first step in this process will help the students understand what it means to "Follow Jesus". The high school groups will go over a study titled "Revolution" which deals with personal evangelism and campus evangelism. These Life Groups will meet in separate rooms at the GO Center and will be led by Craig Davis, Natalie Tibbs, Kassie Thurber, Connie Majors, and Pastor Cory. This will not be just another class, we are striving to not only teach the students, but become mentors and guides as your students go through their teen years. If your student wants to grow in his or her faith, encourage them to sign up and get involved in a Life Group this coming September.

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.
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.

## **Pulse**

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.



# September 2008

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LABOR DAY		SHIFT Worship 6:30 p.m.			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			SHIFT to Loving Choices Mission Project 6:00 p.m.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Student Life Groups Begin 6:00 p.m.			SHIFT Worship 6:30 p.m.			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			SHIFT Worship 6:30 p.m.			
28	29	30				