

# Communication Survey Results<sup>1</sup>

## *Question #1: Who is taking this survey?*

Parents:	14
Students:	5
Other:	11

## *Question #2: What is the number one cause of miscommunication in your family?*

1. not talking
2. too busy
3. emotions
4. distractions
5. busy - not really listening to each other/ attitudes getting in the way
6. exhaustion
7. not writing it down
8. not hearing or understanding
9. Not taking the time or paying attention to needs and wants.
10. Lack of time
11. no communication
12. too many distractions and not asking enough questions to even try and talk to each other
13. lack of understanding
14. not listening
15. never time....don't understand each other
16. honesty
17. I would say the failure to communicate...just assuming that others know the plan or that others in the family know how we feel or what we are thinking.
18. time
19. failure to listen (and/or use the things given)

---

1. I have intentionally left the grammar, spelling and punctuation like it is (as much as it pains me to look at this mess☺) to let you know that I did not alter the answers whatsoever.

20. Son refuses to talk to us
21. too busy to communicate
22. People hiding truths
23. TONES
24. Busyness
25. busy-ness
26. Avoiding conflict
27. not making time for each other to communicate
28. lack of time together
29. cell phone texting instead of listening
30. Busy Schedules

***Question #3: How would you describe communication in your family?***

Awesome:	1
Above Average:	9
Good:	18
Below Average:	2
Poor:	0

***Question #4: For Parents: What was communication like when you were young?***

Horrible:	0
Poor:	3
We Communicated Somewhat:	9
We talked Often:	7
I could pretty much tell them anything:	2

***Question #5: For Students: What do you wish you could communicate to your parents?***

1. struggle for acceptance
2. how i feel about things
3. just more casual things like what went on today in third block or at practice or after school

4. that im not like other kids that they can trust me
5. So that they would understand how life at school really is....they think that its like it was when they were young.....ITS NOT

***Question #6: For Parents: What do you wish you could communicate to your children?***

1. That there are much more important things coming in your life, but one wrong move now can ruin it all.
2. How important each and every choice they make is, one weak/poor choice can change their lives forever - car wreck, drinking, having sex, etc. Parenting is hard work and we are trying to guide/train them toward being productive Christian workers in life and in the church.
3. There is nothing new under the sun. God is our guide. He put me in your life and you in mine. I want to listen and be heard. Please, lets talk.
4. anything and everything
5. The importance of decisions made while they are young can effect their lives. Choose wisely - friends and activities. Make smart choices.
6. To learn from my mistakes
7. importance of christ in your life, and not to give in to peer pressure
8. That all we want for the is the best of everything. But now necessarily what money can buy.
9. idk
10. That we believe in them.
11. Importance of relying on the strength Jesus can give; and how important it is to treat everyone with respect.
12. We need to know where they are, and who they are with at all times.
13. That everything can be dealt with in love. Nothing our children can say or do will make us love them less. I am there for them. I will ALWAYS UNCONDITIONALLY love them, and I want them to talk to me about their problems. I will help them find ways solve their problems. (Notice I did not say I will solve their problems!) I want them to know that we will go to God in prayer together to find help. I also want to communicate to them that we have a risen SAVIOR! And THAT is WHY we can tackle anything together!
14. We can get through anything and we need to talk about things. Whether you think I approve or not. I need to know and we need to be open with each other.
15. I;M PROUD OF THEM , I LOVE THEM, STAY CLOSE TO GOD

16. All things necessary to prepare them for a life of fighting temptation and living for God.
17. How important who your friends are! How God made them to be exactly who they are...not like anyone they may envy.
18. Life-lessons. How to interact and survive in society.

### ***Question #7: What can families do to communicate more effectively?***

1. Talk and listen more
2. Slow down!!
3. Learn to use their emotions wisely.
4. put more effort in and ask more open ended questions
5. Spend time together just as a family- just the little things like watching TV together, playing a game together, eating together whether at home or out.
6. Talk from birth. Even as a parent: Listen. Listen. Listen. Choose to discuss heavy things or painful things at a good time after prayer. Don't have the heavy discussions at bedtime. Eat dinner together at a table. Pray together. Know your child's source for info...friends, music, books, tv, internet. Know your source of info...KNOW GOD!
7. take time out for the family and each other
8. not get mad at one another for their opinion
9. Be willing to listen more and make time for each other. Try not to be too judgmental when faced with problems - and/or dumb mistakes.
10. Make time for each other. Set specific times to be together. Share meals at the table together.
11. make time just for "family" discussions
12. try and seem like whatever you tell them you can trust them with and be more interested in what goes on
13. listen to each other and not just zone out
14. Be willing to listen to each other and consider each others point of view.
15. TRY to understand each other...be more active in each others lives.
16. Be honest!
17. Take time to be with each other whether over a meal or before bedtime or even if it is just once or twice a week. Just taking that time to sit and talk about how the week is going or issues that are going on within the family. We just don't take the time like we should.
18. Take time and let down guards.

19. Listen to one another and SHARE problems, ideas, concerns, etc.
20. We are not paying enough attention to each other when trying to communicate.
21. Pray together, study the Bible together, have family meetings and activities, journal back and forth with each other, save the technology for when it is NEEDED and turn it off when it is not! (I.E., use the DVD player in the van on long trips, NOT during trips to the grocery store, check email/messages on phones only at certain times, tv off during supper/after a certain time, MP3 players off limits during family times, etc.) Mobile technology has the potential to really hurt our ability to communicate...and for our kids to LEARN to communicate. The implication of this could be devastating to the future of their friendships, marriages, job skills, and family relationships.
22. Eat dinner together.
23. Set aside a specific, routine time when families can open up and identify with what everyone is going through on that particular week or month
24. get rid of distractions
25. Make it a priority to turn everything off at least once a day and talk!!!! This is probably best suited for a meal in the evening.
26. Spend more time together as a family!
27. Get rid of distractions.
28. Meet, discuss

# Media Survey Results

***Question #1: Who is taking this survey?***

Parents:	13
Students:	7
Other:	12

***Question #2: What is your age range***

12-15	5
16-18	2
19-25	6
26-33	5
34-44	5
45-54	7
55+	3

***Question #3: What type of media outlets do you use (Check all that apply)?***

Internet	32
Cell Phone	21
Cable TV	22
Dish TV	5
Regular TV	6
I-Pod, CD Player	24
Radio	28
(Other)	3 (XBox Live, Podcasts, Ham Radio)

***Question #4: How much time (hours) do you spend daily using these media outlets? For example, how much time do you spend watching TV, surfing the internet, etc. in a day?***

0-1	1
1-2	5
2-3	11
4-5	7
5+	8

***Question #5: For Parents: Do you have any sort of system to monitor these media outlets? Please explain your answer below.***

Yes: 14  
No: 4

EXPLAIN....

1. yes and no. we have put the computer in the living room to alleviate the opportunity to go to unwanted web sites. there are certain times of day that phones are not to be used. we have channels blocked on all tv's in the house with different passwords for each tv.
2. Our kids can only be on the internet when we can observe. Television can only be on when school work and house work is finished.
3. controls on computer, limit time on computer and cell phone
4. History
5. my child is not old enough to use any media outlets yet...
6. Block the sites that are not normal.
7. TV isn't on until the kids are done with homework. The computer is in a common room, and has a decent filter installed. I still check it's history on a regular basis.....
8. Monitor what he/she hears and watches.
9. Computer is in family room. No internet on cell phones and blocked tv channels
10. A very inexact science. I try to monitor the amount of time spent watching TV (Noggin, Penguin Sings Jingle Bells, Madagascar)
11. I-pod uses I-tunes under my account.. so our ipods are synced up the same everytime. I hear what she does and I can see what she is listening to how often.. Internet is shared on one computer with blocks set up. Cell phone/Text are monitored via web Cable has blocks/passcodes for age appropriate stations
12. Our system is to have the computer in the family area where it is open to see what is on it. The kids pretty much dictate what we watch on tv (with a few exceptions) which is usually Noggin, PBS, or Disney channel. From 4:00-7:00 we are fixing supper and/or eating, and the tv is on one of those channels if it is on. By the time we eat supper, it is time for bath and bed, so we don't watch much adult tv on a regular basis. We rarely even catch the nightly news! The kids do not and will not have tvs or computers in their bedrooms. That is what the family room and the bonus room are for!
13. i have a filter on my computer and it records all the sites visited.
14. A forty inch by 1 1/2 inch belt if my grandchildren don't follow the rules.
15. no kids at home

***Question #6: In the past week (please think really hard and be honest), how many times did you hear or see inappropriate material in the media outlets? By inappropriate I mean cussing, nudity (pop-ups on the internet), suggestive language (about sex and other things), perversion of Christianity, disobedience, etc.***

0-3	6
3-6	3
6-9	6
9-12	5
12+	12

***Question #7: For Parents and Young Adults: What do you wish you could communicate to students about the media(example - dangers)?***

1. Honestly we are giving them a double standard. If there is something we think is inappropriate we will turn the channel but when our kids walk out of the room we will turn it back on to that same show. We forget that in all truthfulness if it's not good for them to watch then most likely it's not good for us to watch.
2. That it is a real danger and that you must be extremely careful.
3. be careful - it is so easy to get drawn into watching, listening, etc. and not think it's a big deal. Think about if Jesus were sitting beside you - would you be listening or watching to it?
4. You have a choice the majority of the time about whether you hear/see offensive material. It is imperative to get in the habit of making good choices about what you watch and listen to. If you don't, your mind will be conditioned by the filth in today's media, and you will progressively allow yourself to watch/listen to worse things without realizing how it is affecting your conscious.
5. When you continue to see or hear it, you begin to not notice it.
6. You may think "Oh, I know that is wrong", but you have to realize that every little bit is sinking in and the more you hear it, the more accepting you are of it next time. The language, crude jokes, etc. become less and less offensive each time you hear/see them.
7. Matthew 15 and Mark 7
8. Facebook and MySpace can hamper your spiritual life. The time devoted to them could be

better used.

9. The media can numb you. Be very careful that you don't let it numb you to the perversion of this world. Stay alert and be cautious.
10. Stay away from sites like MYSFACE and how dangerous some of these things can be.
11. If they would tell the truth
12. Get your priorities straight! There is nothing real about reality shows! Don't short-change your childhood on TV, internet surfing, and electronic games.
13. Songs, movies, and websites can leave lasting memories and be a negative influence.
14. Watching too many "poor" shows could impact how you act/speak or think.
15. It is truly a "false reality".
16. I think that the media is quite possibly the biggest distraction in our relationship with God. If we do not guard our hearts against certain aspects of media Satan will use it to pull us away from things that are more important. The scary part about it is that it is a necessary evil. Our society has become dependent on it--we use it all the time, even in the workplace. I think as with everything, we need to find a balance. We need to pay close attention to how much time we spend using it vs. how much time we dedicate to God.
17. A "little" bit of poop in your daily food is still poop in your food.....would you eat it? Why look at it?
18. Be careful what you see and put in your mind. It is hard to erase after the impression is made. Many of these messages and visuals are addictive and impact your thinking and behavior.
19. You can live without it! The media tells you what they want you to hear (including the daily news!) and it is slanted for money to be made/political issues to be promoted. Having easy global access at the touch of a button is dangerous because it makes sinful images and sinful things available to anyone. Cellphones, the Internet, text images, online gambling, etc. are "things" and they do not have the ability to make themselves UNavailable to those who do not wish to participate in it, or to those who are too young to view/understand the implications of it. Technology cannot discriminate between those "of age" and those who are not "of age," and they cannot detect maturity in how it will be used. The biggest danger is that it soaks up your time that should be used for other healthy things and for God. (building up of the family, serving others, personal study/prayer/reflection, etc.)
20. That we sometimes have to self police. It is okay to turn the channel or turn the internet off if we see or hear something inappropriate, even if it initially makes us laugh or interests us. We can not become numb to bad things in these media avenues. Also, there are GREAT things about these media avenues. We don't have to shut everything off and get rid of it. We can really use these tools to make the church a much better place. Many people misuse the bible, we have not stopped using it!!!
21. The consequences extend much farther down the road than you think... it WILL effect your relationships, marriages, and your ability to focus and think about more positive

things. What you put in, you process back out.

22. The visual media is the easiest way to begin a life-long battle against the addiction of pornography.

### ***Question #8: For Students: What do you wish you could communicate to your parents about the media?***

1. it's one of satan's most used tools in pulling young Christians away and should be more closely monitored
2. I would like them to know that not every teenager is like the stuff we see on TV or hear on the radio. That is just what the media is saying and I don't think it is fair to be judged wrongly because of stuff they see and hear.
3. umm that even though u listen and hear bad language on your ipod and tv doesn't really mean that we always say those or do those actions, or not at all.
4. that we don't listen to everything the media says, and that we aren't what the media says we are
5. that not all things are bad
6. I wish that parents would take the time and try to understand the Young Adults.

### ***Question #9: What can the church do to effectively (and fairly) inform parents about the media?***

1. Through its class materials, occasional sermons, and regular publications.
2. a class or seminar to expose the truths about media and steps we could take to protect our families and friends from its power
3. Start by approaching us in a way that we will respond. Like it or not the world does not communicate verbally anymore. Door knocking and the likes no longer work. If you want to reach out we have to think out of the box. Pod casts of sermons for example (if that's possible). Email daily pick me ups. Reach me thru your website. Make the churches name be one of the first to pop up when you are googled. I know as Church of Christ we are not supposed to make worship "fun" but like it or not God is fun. If learning about Him and worshipping Him is not enjoyable society as a whole will not do it. This does not mean we cater to everyone out there and ignore the gospel. We just need to represent it in a more contemporary way. As to what that is I don't have a definite answer but I do know if we talked to the kids and younger adults in our church they would have some ideas.
4. Classes and Devotionals with parents present relating the problems and difficulties that exists. Sometimes parents cover their heads to the problem.

5. Sermons would be beneficial for all the ages. this is not just a youth problem. Plus so many grandparents are having to raise their grandchildren. So we all need be up on these issues.
6. The church could teach people that bad things are going to be out there because that is just the way things are today but we need to be able to stand up against it and not fall into the trap of acting the way the people act in the media.
7. Maybe have a small presentation about media and how to face it.
8. teach what not to say and listen to and stay true to your God.
9. Find out a popular movie that many members have seen, and count the occurrences of inappropriate language, drug use, and sex. Then ask people if they realized what they had watched. Many times, it just goes in one ear and out the other without ever thinking of what we are exposing our minds to. Why is okay watch this if we don't think it is appropriate to act like that. We don't talk like that in front of our families, at church, at work, or at school, but if you condition yourself not to care it is very easy to start. Try to make a rule and stick with it, such as no R movies; they make them R for a reason. This will be difficult, for example go to Hollywood Video's website and look at the number of new release videos. Then filter out the R rated movies and see how short the list is.
10. Communicate it
11. I don't think the church should have to be the ones informing the members about the media, they should be judging that for themselves. However, I think the church should put more emphasis on the fact that we are supposed to be in the world but not of the world.
12. teach and communicate safe usage and how to avoid harmful usage of these media outlets
13. to let them know that media does alot of stereotyping and thats not a fair thing to do, that gets done alot.
14. Be faithful to the calling of Christ. The rest will take care of itself.
15. They could ask more people to watch what they listen to. Most of my inappropriate words are on the music/tv I listen to. We could just turn off the bad material we listen to or watch.
16. Seminars
17. make a clip to show the elders some of the dangers.
18. Talk about it. Communication, Communication, Communication. The more you talk to your members and inform them of what is going on, the more informed they will be.
19. Try to help everyone.
20. Honestly, not much. Parenting is a parent's job, not the church's. I just don't hold the church responsible for what is my job. That being said, I do appreciate the help it when I hear about issues from brothers and sisters in Christ that I may need to keep an eye out for. Classes, study topics, and plain word-of-mouth can be very helpful.
21. The church could have sermons, classes, and workshops about its dangers.

22. Just talk about it openly I guess.
23. Open discussion of the dangers.
24. I think we need to hold each other accountable.
25. updates on kids "hot" topics and areas where they may be going on the internet we are unaware of.
26. Parenting classes and teen classes should touch on the subject of media influences. Sermons should reference these challenges.
27. Have classes for parents, teens, and interested adults to show them healthy and unhealthy ways to use media (example: have someone from the police force/child protection do an informational class on the realities/dangers of media, be more proactive in having church-based "groups" on the web to share info. (facebook, etc.), have a church web site that is user-friendly/easy to find with links to help Christians with Bible study, research, current issues, programs, etc., use text messaging for church-related programs (yes, MANY adults in our congregation use texting as a communication tool!), etc. In other words, use media to our advantage as a church when we can, and educate members on the realities of how it can be dangerous. This could be a topic to preach on from a Biblical perspective!!!! We could also do a series based on the materials provided by the speaker from last year (can't remember his name) that came on a Saturday and spoke about the media. He had great statistics. It was captivating material! This program was held on a day when many people could not/did not attend. Families are generally present at worship service! Why not extend our study of that as a series and bring it to the congregation at a time when the target audience is already present?
28. give them tools and resources. be honest about what is out there. speak openly about pornography and its affect on our teens and on our marriages.
29. Inform parents to pros and cons of the internet tools and show their kids are using/watching. And just because a child has a username and password does not mean you have no right to have it as well!! Watch them and follow-up and through on things!
30. Actually have the conversation! Congregation wide at that... sex, porn, and the problems associated don't need to be treated as some sort of "taboo" to speak of, etc.
31. 1. Teach them the Truth and forget about the falsehoods. We can remember what is right and if it is practiced enough, we will know when it is wrong. 2. Encourage each other to spend time with someone of like faith. "Tell me with whom you walk; I'll tell you who you are!" We become like the people with whom we associate. 3. Put into practice Jude 22, 23! Yank them out! 4. Fill the church library with books on the problems of pornography. 5. Write letters to the companies that advertise during programs that are contrary to sound doctrine. Companies consider one letter to equal 15,000 peoples opinions of such. 6. Pray and fast as a family. The media has become a demon!
32. Be honest open about it. Especially the socail networking pages and the internet.

# Alcohol/Drug Survey Results

***Question #1: For students: Have you ever been asked to use alcohol or drugs or to attend a party where these were going to be in use?***

Yes:	21
No:	3

***Question #2: For adults: Growing up...how much of an issue were drugs and alcohol in your context?***

Never:	5
Sometimes:	19
A lot:	12
All the time:	1

***Question #3: Do you think drinking alcohol is bad?***

Yes:	26
No:	25

Explain:

1. Alcohol ruins lives in so many ways by destroying families, lives, and by sometimes causing families to live in poverty. I don't want any part of it because of all the negative aspects involved in it. A person without an addiction could drink moderately and not become drunk, but their drinking could cause someone with an addictive personality to get caught up in it. I say, avoid every appearance of evil.
2. Proverbs teaches us not to look at fermented wine. To avoid it!
3. It can start an addiction
4. There is an in between answer. I don't believe that the consumption of alcohol is bad but I do believe the abuse of alcohol is.
5. I do not think the act of drinking is sinful because Jesus turned the water to wine and He did not sin. But is never says that He drank the wine at the wedding party either. The Bible does warn against being drunk, but when does a person get drunk. Since everyone is different and we don't know how many drinks will make us drunk, shouldn't we avoid it all together.
6. Anything done in moderation is not bad?

7. It is destructive to your body, mind, and others. It is a picture of the progressive nature of sin. It starts with one drink, gradually takes over a person's life one inch at a time. A person forms an unhealthy, emotionally trusting relationship with alcohol and other drugs. You are in bondage hurting yourself and everyone around you. You break promises to everyone and begin to have major problems at home, school, work, and in the community. No aspect of your life is untouched economically, socially, spiritually, legally. You become powerless to conquer it on your own.
8. If you are under 21 it is definitely bad. If you drink in excess (to be drunk) it is bad. Consuming one alcoholic beverage (a glass of wine for instance) on occasion is not bad.
9. It impairs your thoughts and makes you do things you wouldn't normally do in the right state of mind
10. Even Jesus drank wine in celebration, a little wine/alcohol is ok, don't make it a habit, and don't drink just to get drunk.
11. Not unless you are drinking it to get drunk
12. It lowers your inhibitions that might cause you to act beyond the normal guidelines of acceptable behavior.
13. Although a couple of drinks may seem harmless to us, it can be the license for acceptance to our children. Children who see adults drink gain a sense of acceptance that alcohol is okay. "Everyone does it" mentality becomes the excuse that they need to rationalize the behavior that is sinful resulting from drunkenness. Kids don't have to see you "drunk" in order to obtain this perception. They just have to see you drinking. This was my experience as a child. I saw the adults in my life drinking (parents included) that were so influential. This made me think that it was an accepted behavior. I started drinking and doing the "bad stuff" that arises from the drinking.
14. It is okay if done in moderation
15. I do not personally drink alcohol or recommend it, but I would say that if drinking in moderation it can be alright. As long as you can control yourself.
16. it leads to bad things and can influence people to making bad choices.
17. Alcohol in moderation is fine. If drinking alcohol negatively affects your life or others around you then it is a problem.
18. there is nothing wrong with drinking, just drinking to get drunk
19. if of age and you do not abuse alcohol
20. Drinking alcohol in many cases is a prelude to worse events.
21. most get addicted /drunk is a sin
22. It is stupid and WAY uncool because it is bad for your health and can be harmful to others when abused. I don't get it!! You put yourself in danger along with others!
23. I don't think drinking alcohol is bad; I think getting drunk is bad, or drinking just because everyone else is

24. It harms your body, so whats the point in it
25. ugh yeah...because when it ruins your life not to be able to go to school because of a hang over...hello...it should be out lawed../ I was taught never hate the people who do it hate the drug.
26. Only in excess or for the wrong reasons
27. In excess, yes. In moderation, no. I would also say yes to people that have family or personal history of alcohol abuse. It may not be a good idea, but I can't condemn it as altogether "bad."
28. I feel that drinking is circumstantial. If it causes another brother to stumble, it is bad. Alcohol in and of itself is not bad.
29. its addicting. it makes you act different. in a way that you wouldnt normally. it make syou do things you wouldnt do in your normal mind.
30. Drinking alcohol just leads to more negative things..
31. We know that God does not want us to be drunk, and the easiest way to avoid drunkenness is not to drink. Some have said that drinking is a gray area. If that person had an alcoholic in his/her family, it would not be a gray area.
32. its not good for your body
33. Moderation is the key to everything you put in your mouth. A drink here or there, I don't believe is bad. But for the most part, you never know if you can control a habit. It would be best to live life without it.
34. If you are under age, it is wrong. If you do not get drunk, it is fine. Did Jesus drink wine?
35. If you are of age, I don't believe it's a bad thing as long as not abused. Also, if by you drinking alcohol, you are causing someone to stumble, it is bad. Just because it's permissible doesn't mean it's beneficial.
36. Many people do not understand the implications of using it.
37. a glass of wine or drink by an of age adult is not a sin--getting drunk IS a sin
38. Drinking alcohol is, in and of itself, not bad. It is what it can lead to. Eating is, in and of itself, not bad. It is what it can lead to. We have to eat to sustain our bodies. We do not have to drink alcohol to live, so I choose to avoid the potential problems.
39. it is not the drinking that is bad - it is the abuse, lack of control
40. I think it can be, but in generalities don't think alcohol is bad. When it is abused and overconsumed is where problems start.
41. Alcohol in it self is not bad excess is. If alcohol were bad we could not take some medicines.
42. because more bad can come out of it than any good that you will ever experience from it.
43. I don't think drinking socially is wrong but overall would discourage its use.

44. I think when used properly it is not, but when it is abused that is when it is bad. For example, drinking wine. Drinking a glass of wine at dinner is not bad. It has been proven good for you and your digestive system and what not. However, when you choose to drink a whole bottle of wine to get drunk that is when it becomes a problem.
45. I don't see that our alcohol today can be compared with the wine of the Bible (due to concentration of alcohol). Our's today would be more like their strong drink which is always condemned.
46. leads to diminished thinking/reasoning skills
47. In moderation, it is fine. It loosens you up. It is a fun-aid.

***Question #4: For students: do you know of anyone in your core group of friends who have struggled with alcohol or drugs?***

Yes:	16
No:	7

***Question #5: What do high-school students struggle with the most in your experience?***

Alcohol:	38
Marijuana:	3
Meth:	1
Pain-Killers	1
Ecstasy:	1

Other: (Please Explain)

1. I think it is alcohol and weed.
2. In this area alcohol but also crack. Mostly alcohol.
3. Alcohol when I was in high school. Who knows today?
4. To tell you the truth All of these are used at my school.
5. sexual sin
6. Life and growing up
7. Abuse of over the counter drugs, or alcohol. Alcohol seems to always be an issue. It is the "forbidden" therefore it's the attractive.

## ***Question #6: What do you think attracts people to drugs and alcohol?***

1. The way it is portrayed in the media as glamorous and a way to be attractive and accepted by others. People think it is cool. Kids want to feel "grown up," and they think this makes them appear mature.
2. Not have to deal with reality.
3. Society or peers. Some could be parents and they probably think that their kids don't know it, but they know early.
4. It's portrayed as something fun and exciting.
5. It is a way for students to rebel against their parents while being socially accepted at the same time. Now that is efficient!
6. People seek a release of either stress or responsibilities through the use of drugs, and through peer pressure or acquaintances this is facilitated.
7. A void in their life. Medication of pain they experience when not accepted or bored with life. Experimentation with something that's forbidden.
8. They think it is cool because other teens are doing it and they don't want to be left out or be made fun of and it is also curiosity.
9. It's ability to allow you to do things you wouldn't normally do sober
10. It has this over-used phraseology of being able to get you into the "IN Crowd"
11. The fact that so many people around them are doing it, so they want to get in on it too.
12. Advertising and media, pressure to be accepted, feelings of doubt and depression
13. Trying to get away with it and everybody is doing it. To find some release for problems the user might be having.
14. Self-confidence that comes with the act of drinking or drugs. It gives you the "gift of gab".
15. The promise of the fun that it will bring.
16. I think it is the fact of rebellion. Or it could be a rite of passage so to speak Or that supposed cool people do it.
17. trying to fit in
18. peer pressure
19. The fact that it makes you "cool". I know personally it was about being rebellious. The media places so much importance on drugs and alcohol in a "normal" and "accepted" atmosphere. Teens start getting confused on where to draw the line.
20. everybody does it

21. Seems that people have a really good time when doing them....and that if you do not do them you are a minority
22. It is popular with others in the person's age group. The person also may only focus on what they consider to be positive affects.
23. peer pressure/curiosity/low self esteem
24. They think that it is just something that people do while growing up in high school and when they see others doing it I guess they are like "hey, that seems cool, I want to try." And everyone makes it seem so fun-when in all reality it is so dumb.
25. They think it looks cool or they don't feel good about themselves and they think the drugs or alcohol will help them forget that sadness.
26. especially in high school people thought it was the cool thing to do, others do it to forget problems, i just see it ass something that harms your body so why do it?
27. peer presure..and how others are doing it and they want to join.
28. Escape from reality and also looking cool
29. Peer pressure, advertising, the perception that everyone or all cool people or people of a certain group do it.
30. The feeling that one gets while drinking whether its the buzz of acceptance from peers.
31. If someone is in pain. If they are bored.
32. They try to make it a way of escape
33. They say it makes them feel good and I guess they think it's "cute!" Newsflash: IT'S NOT!
34. So many teens struggle with depression and related issues, and medicating one's self with alcohol or a drug seems to make the problems better.
35. people, friend tell them that make them feel good
36. Peers. Experimental. Relaxation. We are taught through media, family, and friends that it is the thing to do; just like eating at every gathering, the majority of people are programed to think that you need to drink when you have a celebration or when you need to relax.
37. being a part of something
38. Release of stress, friends are doing it
39. the image of being cool, because "everyone does it"
40. friends
41. The numbing of the conscience. You can do wrong and blame it on the drugs.
42. escape, relaxation, and it is what everyone else is doing
43. The rush of knowing you are doing something that is forbidden. Also as cliché as it sounds - peers.

44. The out of mind experience (escape).
45. The image of fun and that all your problems will go away if you just give in and join the crowd.
46. Desire to fit in. Forget worries and pain. Sow wild oats.
47. In the beginning it I think it is peer pressure. Over time I think it evolves into an escape when that person is stressed, or just tired of dealing with the world. When you are under the influence of alcohol you have no worries and no cares and I feel like that is why people continue to go back to alcohol...for that escape and maybe they don't know how to deal with situations on their own...
48. Their peers probably open the door, but what keeps people there is the way it makes them feel. It's artificial fun because they can escape reality for a brief time. Even if it's not getting drunk - it's "relaxing". There's a retreat from life.
49. think they are cool, popular, etc.
50. That others are using it. And that they make you feel good, or better than you were feeling. Who doesn't want to feel good?

***Question #7: Parents and Adults: What do you wish you could communicate to your children about drugs and alcohol?***

1. You will be a happier person if you simply avoid ever taking the first taste of either. You will not miss out on anything. You are not weak or a wimp for not giving in -- you are a person of character, who can stand up to the pressure of not giving in.
2. The dangers of its use... The lie that society presents concerning its usage. Particularly alcohol.
3. That it isn't necessary, it is a choice thing that you could sometimes pay for the rest of your life. There is the old saying, If Jesus came back would you want him to find you doing what you are doing right now?
4. The pain that comes with it.
5. That there are certain times and situations in adulthood, when alcohol and or marijuana use is acceptable. But it is a dangerous and costly mistake to get mixed up with these substances during adolescence because teens can not understand the inevitable consequences of their actions and the effects that drugs will have on them. Hard drugs, anything other than alcohol and marijuana, are not worth the risk of ever trying.
6. It starts as a temporary fix or escape from some problem we are having. Before you know it, it takes over as the number one relationship of your life. The abundant salvation and provision found in the Lord is traded in for something that can never satisfy the deepest longings of your soul. The Christian does not need drugs or alcohol. We are complete in Christ (Col. 2:9-10). The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want (Ps. 23). You will have a much happier, more abundant life, if you never take the first drink or first hit. Life has

enough challenges with a clear mind and body, why compound your problems with these toxic poisons?

7. Once you start it is hard to quit and the more you do something the less it seems bad. The shock factor wears off.
8. They're not worth it, you can have as much fun without them
9. N/A
10. The consequences that are awaiting them if they continue down the path drugs and alcohol will take them!
11. That it isn't worth it and you aren't impressing anybody.
12. It is virtually impossible to not sin with an impaired mind. It takes away your inhibitions for sex, lust, greed, etc.
13. While they might be fun for a while end result is often a devastated life.
14. It does nothing for you, it only does things to you - things like making you forget what happened, or altering your judgment where you don't know [maybe even don't care] what happens or what you do [or someone does to you].
15. the ill effects and problems that will be caused down the road
16. Its not worth it. Today I respect those around me that say "I've never tried anything!". I'm only in my early 20's, but even at this age I regret participating in drugs and too much alcohol consumption. I've luckily grown out of that stage in my life, but I know that not everyone can mature as quickly. It just scares me to think about my children one day, because I know how easy it is for ANYONE to do drugs!
17. The dangers of them and where they can lead.
18. not worth it/ being Godly is fun too. I was popular and a christian in High School
19. You think you are in control of it but you aren't. It is harder to stop then it is to say no the first time. If you have to drink or do drugs to fit in, you need to get better friends.
20. As a lifestyle they only aid to lead us away from who God created us to be. That said they are a dead end.
21. Keep good friends that will strengthen you. Reach out to friends that struggle. Practice grace and forgiveness. Encourage others that struggle.
22. I wish to communicate that one does not have to drink to feel good or to fit in.
23. They can have long-term ramifications that could seriously hurt your life and your walk with God.
24. that once you start using them that it is hard to get off of them. just because your friends do them don't been that you heve to them.
25. It's not worth it.
26. don't ever get started.

27. You really are better off without it. You can have so much fun without ever taking a sip of alcohol or doing drugs.
28. Drugs and alcohol make you do stupid stuff that you will regret later. Don't live for the "now." Make decisions now for your future husband/wife and family that will not want you to have practiced bad habits that will impact their lives.
29. ONE time with drugs or getting drunk can end or ruin your life!
30. The possible consequences.
31. how hard the addiction seems to be to break
32. It doesn't make you cool to do it. People respect you more in the long run if you stand up to those pressures. Its just not worth all the problems it can cause.
33. That you can not escape your troubles by using these stimulants.
34. Hugs not drugs (ha) I love the Pink song Sober. She asks the question how can I feel this good sober. I think this song tells the downside to alcohol and the answer is a life with Jesus.
35. Most people don't become drunks or drug addicts overnight. Most I have spoken with, never took that first drink or that first drag and expected to become and addict. For most, it happens slowly and you don't even know it's happening. Then one day, you wake up and realize the mess you've created which only drives you further into depression. Don't play with it - because it won't play with you - it will consume you.
36. It does not make you look cool. If "friends" try to entice you, they are not true friends. Don't be misled thinking one time won't hurt. It can hook you for life or kill if you get in a car.

***Question #8: Students: What do you wish you could communicate to your parents about drugs and alcohol?***

1. that some experimentation is not all bad and alcohol and marijuana are more commonly used by teens than ever before, so if parents want to really do something about this than they need to openly communicate with teens.
2. My parents always told me it was bad, and that it is never ok to participate in either, but without giving you a choice, they inevitably cause you to question why they don't wish you to do such things. Perhaps parents should give you a choice, and tell you the consequences of said choices.
3. That talking about it is helpful. To put trust in the person until the parents have reason not to trust them.
4. That for a lot of people that it is a struggle and to show be loving and show grace when you mess up. Because more than likely your parents messed up like this at some point in time. A lot of people also look to it as an outlet when something bad happens to them.

5. I am stronger than they give me credit
6. I guess I still count as a student because I'm in school...but my parents (mom in particular) were really understanding and realistic about drugs. I know that other parents were really naive about them. I would say to be realistic. If your child participates in drugs, it is not the end of the world. They will only quick drinking and doing drugs if THEY DECIDE TO. You can not punish them enough to make them stop. It is a personal decision. Therefore, I would suggest counseling and immediate attention from you. Be in their life constantly reminding them that you care. Punishment is necessary, but only if you explain your reasoning.
7. I think that if you can't be happy without drugs or alcohol then you need new friends!
8. I don't do it, **stories from parents also help a lot** to know they were not perfect and they just don't want you to go through what they went through or watched a friend go through
9. Well when your parents think you're doing this and they don't take the time to actually communicate...there's nothing you really can do except pray and pray...I can say I've tried to communicate. It always fails.
10. Talk about it. The DARE program in 6th grade isn't enough to propel you through high school/
11. that I'm not doing it. I think it's wrong. and that they don't have to worry about me doing them
12. Be honest with us and we will be honest with you. If you had an alcohol or drug problem when you were our age, tell us. We will be more open if you, if you're more open with us. :)
13. That you need to trust in the values that you brought us up by. Just because you might associate with someone who might have participated in these activities don't assume we are doing it too.
14. I wish I could make them see how real of a situation it is. I feel like sometimes parents think they have the perfect child and they know right from wrong...and maybe they do..but it still does not make drugs and alcohol a reality.
15. That we, for the most part, are going to experiment with it, as most of our parents did I'm sure, so to just give us tips on safe drinking instead of abstinence. Rules are made to be broken. Tips help you.

***Question #9: What should/could the church do to reach out to families to prevent their teens from using alcohol and drugs or to help with families who are dealing with it?***

1. Keep providing information. Get personal. Encourage those who have used either to give personal testimony how it has affected them...

2. Counseling, Support Groups... Preventative support... Alternate programs (events) to keep teens from environments where alcohol is used.
3. Talking with the younger children because they are around it more than you. They are very much exposed early. Not talking about it doesn't mean it will just go away. We can't be afraid to talk and have discussion. Middle school is where it is at, get to the point when talking with them. Talking, talking and discussion. We need more classes or structured meetings, like AA meetings, for an example. Something needs to be done, but I think we all sit back hoping that somebody will do it for us, therefore, it doesn't get done.
4. The first thing is talk...talk...talk. You can not hide as if it doesn't exist. If you think you are the only one struggling with drugs or alcohol you are wrong!!!! I guarantee everyone has a story to tell, a shoulder to lean on, and advice to give. This idea that as a family you need to hide your skeletons is ridiculous! We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Who better could there be to reach out to?
5. Drinking and drugs are not just social norms to be followed. These inhibit the quality of your decisions and reduce your reaction time. Just because it is legal does not mean it is right. The law is a bare minimum set of standards to be followed, but as Christians we are held to a higher standard not only by God but by our friends too.
6. This is not the church's responsibility. Teens parents need to take responsibility for teaching drug and alcohol awareness.
7. Take some field trips to night court. Attend some Narcotics Anonymous or AA meetings, Al a Non. Hear some testimonies from recovering people. Provide on going small group meetings to help people stay sober, by providing spiritual resources, and accountability for those who want to be alcohol and drug free.
8. The church should teach students not to use it even once or ever try it and to choose friends who will be a good influence on them.
9. Talk to parents and their kids, get the issues out in the open
10. Although mainstream commercialization is already in effect, the church can still do its part in backing these various campaigns.
11. Share real life experiences with the teens.
12. As much as possible, set up connections to interventions groups, counseling groups, any other type of resource. Provide a safe place for the families to turn to in case of trouble. Provide information about the dangers of addiction.
13. Have a safe place to go where you can have fun and hang out with friends.
14. Encourage open discussion with families.
15. Just be more open to discussing the issue publicly and privately.
16. Show mercy to these people and help them realize that nobody is perfect, and also to be honest with them about their past. Because when I was growing up in the church no one seemed to be honest about their past they just said they did bad stuff. I mean anybody can do bad stuff. I think it would have been a lot easier growing up if people would have admitted they struggled with smoking pot, drinking alcohol, etc...

17. Talk to families and keep them informed of current statistics in schools and peer groups and also form support groups for those who have become involved or affected by its use.
18. Bring in a neutral party, police officer/judge/probation/ex-user etc...
19. I benefitted the most from being with the youth group. When I was with my friends who were a positive influence (and my youth minister and family) I wanted to be a better person. Youth group activities WORK! As long as the group is very inclusive, that alone will move mountains!
20. leave it up to the student to make the right choice if there faith is what they say it is, then there will be no reason to do it
21. i think just continuing to have alot of church activities to keep kids busy
22. Educate parents and teens in the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol through Bible classes, sermons, and seminars.
23. Talk openly more/provide profesional couselfers where needed
24. Just making parents aware of what is "popular" now and the affects of the it.
25. Increase awareness. Parents and students need to know the signs and what happens to your body when you drink or do drugs. We also need to start informing kids early because it's too late by the time they are in middle school.
26. just provide students with things to do to stay out of trouble which is done alot and let them know your there not to judge but to talk
27. I couldnt tell you. But thanks for letting me take the quiz..
28. Be real and open. If its not safe to talk about it then noone will. The church can't make people so uncomfortable or feel judged so they dont talk about it. Love people including those who use alcohol and drugs the way Jesus would. He would hang out and be in a relationship with them to show them how to live, not just where they are wrong.
29. The church should practice forgiveness and grace, and be encouraging to people, not condemning. Recognize that people struggle with it. Don't ignore it. When people come forward with a problem, don't ostracize them. Reach out to them.
30. The church could openly educate their flock of alcohol and its consequences. I feel like when we openly have dialouge about pressing issues it brings knowledge and healing.
31. show them what can happen when you drink and drive. and how drugs and alcohol can change your life drastically.
32. Keep families up-to-date of what is out there
33. Have programs to teach the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Also, have someone that has struggled with alcohol before but has gotten out of the addiction.
34. An open, honest relationship in which parents and teens can discuss serious issues at school without teens fearing automatic, unquestioning punishment when certain topics are brought up would be a good start.
35. pray for them all the time.say I have someone you could talk to if you would like to.
36. I think that most people are starving for relationship. Communication skills for the most

part, are poor. I think that our leadership could possibly focus on helping the church (youth and adults) grow their relationship with God on a more personal level. We also need avenues to spiritually grow our relationship with our church family so that we can have each other in times that we are weak. Sometimes when families struggle with such issues, we tend to talk about these problems amongst ourselves, and expect the person to "straighten up", but we don't always, loving, help with solutions.

37. Support them and help them
38. More awareness about the problem. Also I feel like sometimes we act as if no one does it and we only talk about how to prevent it. I think making sure students know there is a way out if they are already in is a good thing too.
39. We need to educate about many social issues in the context of the Bible. We usually talk about how wrong they are, quote a few scriptures to back it up, and move on assuming that everyone got it because the topic was covered. Real-life experts (counselors, police, EMT's, etc.) should be utilized to tell true stories of how social problems have interfered with their lives. Maybe I'm wrong, but it seems like testimonials (even among our own congregation) are not encouraged. There has been no outlet for people to talk about personal struggles, decisions, and the outcomes (good and bad) that result. People learn from each other! Especially if it is personal...and a safe environment for discussion. I remember a former pharmacist coming to my high school to give a testimony about the dangers of drugs. He had been put in prison for writing fake prescriptions and he told about the destruction it brought on his family and his career and about the horrors of prison. In college, we had a program where the campus police showed pictures of alcohol related wrecks that they had personally seen. It was powerful. I still remember it today because it was personal and a safe environment to discuss it! We should educate our church membership in these ways, too, if we want to make an impact with topics like these.
40. Provide information to educate both teens and parents.
41. Communication!! Teach parents to stay involved--even when growing and maturing teens are pushing them away. Teach parents and teens to communicate!! Teach parents to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"
42. Teach honestly. Admit that drinking alcohol is not condemned in scripture. Rather than addressing the problem strictly as a sin, stress the negative impact of choosing to travel that road. Have people who struggled with addiction come in and share their stories. "Scared straight" can work.
43. Don't hide it under the rug. We as a family faced issues with an underage teen using tobacco and alcohol. We sought help in the church, but really found none. No one seemed to want to speak of it, let alone help us talk with our child. Very disappointing, Christ never hid the sins of others, why do we do that? If we are a true "family" we work through things together. I know we were the first family to have to work through this, but we sure got that impression and our child was shunned for it. We all sin and once forgiveness is asked for God washes our slate clean and we have no right to continue to hold that sin against our youth.
44. Regarding prevention, I have no clue. I think by making the teens in the youth group

friends outside of church is one of the best things we can do. Make them strong together - its easier to say no if you have others doing it too. In dealing with those issues, I think it helps if you have other parents/families to talk to who have gone through the same trials. Experience is the best teacher and maybe it would be helpful to just have someone to really talk it out with. It could also open the lines of communication with teens...make the abuse more real instead of abstract it could happen situation.

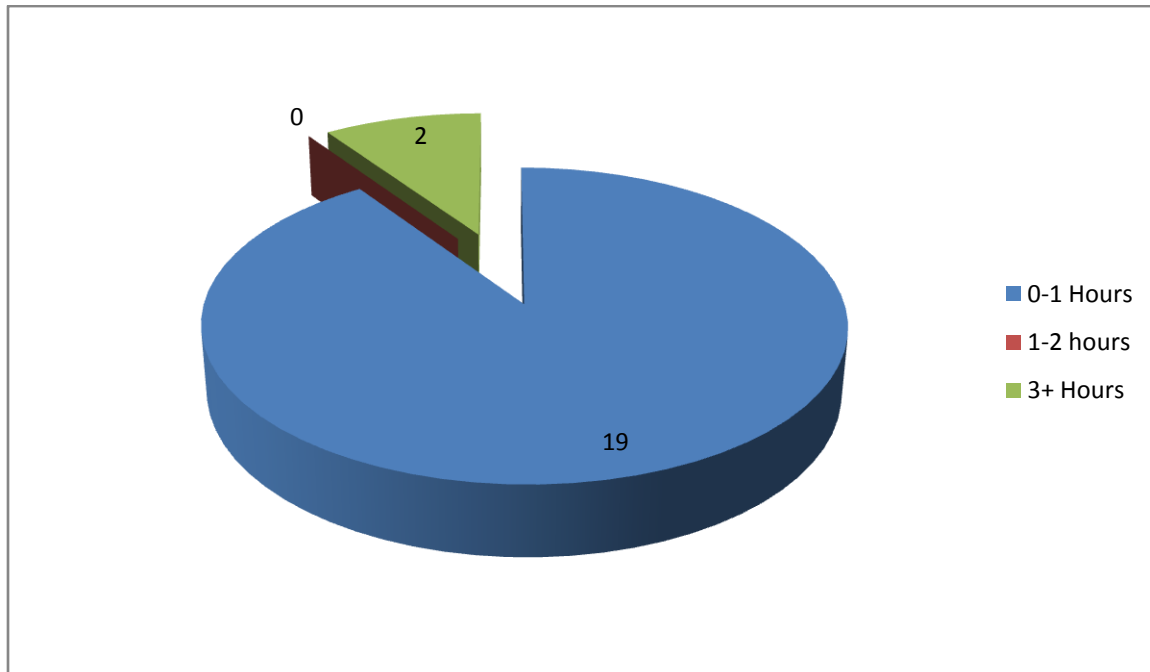
45. Educate And be honest with the teens about the ramifications. Also let them know that there are alternatives to these. You can not drown you problems.
46. Be understanding and non-judgmental.
47. Families can't use it. Most teens who drink have parents who drink. Have personal testimonies of people who have suffered the consequences of sin. Explain why God wants us to avoid this and not just told it is sinful. Honest talk about the bible and alcohol. Jesus made liquor lets quit lying to people and put it into context.
48. Main St. does a great job of this, but keeping students involved with the church, community, and in the youth group.
49. Speak about it open and honestly. We can't "tip-toe" around it. Give parents tools to be able to discuss it at home with their kids - give them signs to look for - and numbers to call if the local congregation doesn't offer help. For teens - teach them what it is and what it really does to their bodies. Go beyond the "it will make you feel" talks to the core of "you are destroying your body" lessons. Teach them how to reject those around them who offer the drugs or alcohol, without being a social outcast. That seems to be one of the teens biggest issues - they don't want to do it, but they also don't want to be a social outcast. Teach them how to make good decisions, to count the cost of following Christ, and to choose friends better.
50. Good alternatives/activities on Friday and Saturday nights when other kids are "partying".
51. The church really shouldn't do anything. It's the families problem. if they want help, offer counseling. Besides that, leave it to the individual. Besides, any church will only outcast the problem family, not embrace them and offer encouragement. They are a blemish and must be removed. That would be the general consent between adults.

# Spiritual Formation (Part 1)

## Survey Results

***Question #1: Adults: How much during the day do you have personal devotional time (prayer, studying Scripture, singing, etc.)?***

0-1 Hours:	19
1-2 Hours:	0
3+ Hours:	2



***Question #2: Students: How much during the day do you have personal devotional time (prayer, studying Scripture, singing, etc.)?***

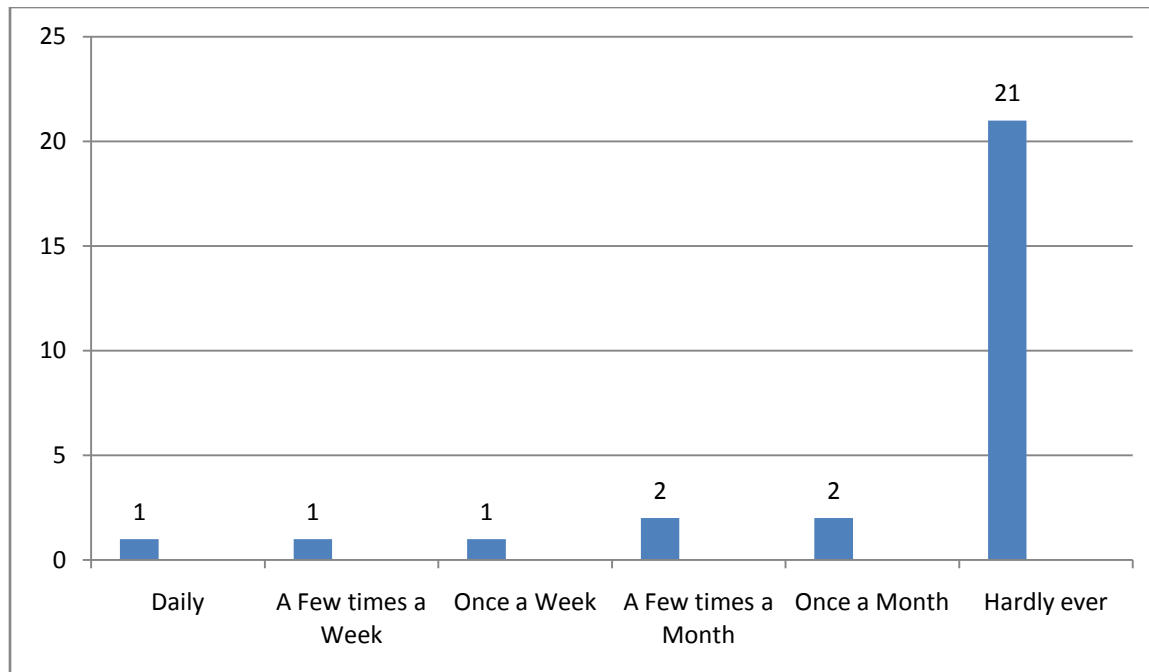
0-1 Hours:	5
1-2 Hours:	3
3+ Hours:	0

***Question #3: What are your priorities as a family (on a scale of 1-10)? BE HONEST!!!***

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Average
School	10.0% (2)	10.0% (2)	10.0% (2)	10.0% (2)	10.0% (2)	5.0% (1)	5.0% (1)	<b>35.0%</b> <b>(7)</b>	5.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	5.40
Work	4.0% (1)	4.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	12.0% (3)	16.0% (4)	16.0% (4)	12.0% (3)	8.0% (2)	<b>24.0%</b> <b>(6)</b>	4.0% (1)	6.40
Church (Being with the Community)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (3)	3.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (3)	14.8% (4)	11.1% (3)	22.2% (6)	<b>25.9%</b> <b>(7)</b>	7.52
Personal Spiritual Growth	4.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	16.0% (4)	12.0% (3)	12.0% (3)	12.0% (3)	<b>24.0%</b> <b>(6)</b>	16.0% (4)	4.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	5.64
Sports	18.5% (5)	11.1% (3)	7.4% (2)	3.7% (1)	18.5% (5)	<b>22.2%</b> <b>(6)</b>	3.7% (1)	7.4% (2)	3.7% (1)	3.7% (1)	4.59
Leisure (Hobbies, skiing, fishing, etc.)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (4)	<b>19.2%</b> <b>(5)</b>	15.4% (4)	11.5% (3)	7.7% (2)	<b>19.2%</b> <b>(5)</b>	3.8% (1)	3.8% (1)	3.8% (1)	4.92
Family Time	11.1% (3)	0.0% (0)	<b>14.8%</b> <b>(4)</b>	<b>14.8%</b> <b>(4)</b>	<b>14.8%</b> <b>(4)</b>	11.1% (3)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (3)	7.4% (2)	<b>14.8%</b> <b>(4)</b>	5.59

***Question #4: Families: How often do you have planned devotionals in your home?***

Daily	1
A Few times a Week	1
Once a Week	1
A Few Times a Month	2
Once a month	2
Hardly Ever	21



***Question #5: Why do we struggle spiritually forming our families? What gets in the way?***

1. laziness
2. TIME
3. i think that as a family we dont think we have to. after a long day at work or school i believe that spiritually forming our families is the last thing on our minds.
4. Our lives are too busy with work, school, and other activities (including church activities) that we put God and our spiritual growth off to last. Then it is late and we are tired and we neglect what's really important.
5. STUFF
6. We have too many activities that we put our families on the back burner, so to speak and then we suffer down the road and wonder why. I think as parents we push our kids toooooo far to be in too many activities and we push ourselves too much to have a title to whatever or we are just to selfish to gain things for ourselves. I hope this makes sense. The older I get I see things in a different light. I had people to tell me things and most of the time I listened, but today I don't think the younger listen too well, I feel like that I did something wrong in my generation, maybe it was that I listened so much that I didn't want all that for my kids. I don't know, but I do know that families are suffering now. Some will not admit it, but they are.
7. Time
8. sometimes we don't talk about the MoSt important things...
9. We don't know how to block out all the distractions.

10. schedules
11. Not enough time together INTENTIONALLY talking about Jesus; learning about Jesus.
12. parents not believing in their children...as they think were out doing stuff when were not but they cant believe us.
13. We do not "schedule" the time. Our lives revolve around schedules, like it or not. We need to schedule the Lord first and everything else after.
14. we get too busy with all the junk in our lives, and push spiritually forming our families for when we might have a chance to do it (which sometimes is never)
15. Juggling multiple schedules. The spiritual leader of the home making it a priority, planning for it, communicating it, and following through. Thinking it has to be some big production rather than valuing the spontaneity of reading a scripture, having discussion, taking prayer requests, and worshiping.
16. The world
17. being home at the some time.
18. Somtimes institutionalized church systems get in the way. For some reason people have decided that it is up to the church staff and preaching to only inform our children and our families. We've passed the buck so to say..... Also, we've seemed to let our "church governments" in the CoC, aka Christian Universities do the work, we seem to think that their reasoning and teachings are law....
19. I think its a struggle b/c spiritually is such a personal thing...everyone is different. Almost everything gets in the way! When I was growing up we never made it home before 8 or 9p and by that time we were all so tired and already mentally preparing for the next day that no one could focus.
20. There are too many other things demanding our attention. The grass has to be cut, lunch made, work caught up on, e-mail checked and down time enjoyed. All these "necessities" take precedence over taking care of our families spiritual well-being, which is put off inevitably.
21. We are too busy for Jesus.
22. What gets in the way?...Trying to get to the next item on the "to do" list! (a meeting here, an activity there, supper, baths, etc.) The adults in our family are learning to literally write down "Bible study" (for personal growth) on our to-do list so that it will get done! We need to also put "family devos" on it, too. We struggle with it because getting "into the Word" (formally) with the family is not a priority. We go to church, we pray together, but we don't open the Bible enough together. It is not because we do not WANT TO. Our schedule is the only thing that gets in the way. Shame on us.
23. Work keeps everyone on different schedules, and it seems everyone has something they consider more important.
24. Our lack of time management and lack of committment.
25. We are just not dedicated enough to it. We don't see it as a necessary part of our lives. Other things are seen as being more important.

26. TIME MANAGEMENT

27. Me. I keep saying we are going to do this then I say I'm too tired or we have to go do that, we don't have time etc.

28. tradition. if we did not do it growing up, we probably will not do it as our kids grow up.

# Youth Ministry Survey

***Question #1: From your experience, how would you say your current youth ministry experience is?***

Horrible	0.0%	0
Mostly Negative	3.8%	1
Neutral	0.0%	0
Mostly Positive	46.2%	12
Amazing	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>13</b>

Explain:

1. Our YG is so service-oriented. The kids serve with gusto (well, most of the time). It is only because of great adult and former YG members that have given this example to them.
2. my child has become a more mature christian
3. I am so excited about the future. Although our kids are not in the YG just yet, the energy that our YM brings to our congregation, the examples that the current YG members have for the younger ones, and the leadership of our church is exciting.
4. I can not begin to describe how amazing the program is.
5. Plenty of activities, but mostly the relationships that are built with God and other christians
6. I didn't have much growing up, but I am now being exposed to some good stuff.
7. I would say now the experience is positive, seeing how God has moved you and changed your views on a lot of things is really a positive experience to see.
8. It was definitely a highlight of my teenage years.
9. I love being with the youth group! I don't know what I would do without these people.
10. The children and parents are participating in Christian activities with Christian friends.
11. Youth minister is dedicated and understanding which encourages us (teens) to be so as well
12. More parental involvement would be optimum, but we're still seeing growth without it.

13. Things could always be better. Overall I think it is great.
14. In the past it wasn't great at all because he never cared about the kids or their parents. but the one i have now cares about all of them and interacts with them
15. Of course with the exception of a few kids.
16. To be honest and blunt- It seems like everyone has a different idea about what you should be doing. Every parent, elder, etc... has a different idea and when you don't fulfill their ideas it they get upset and think you are lazy. But if you try to do it all you end up working so much that you have no time at all for your family and definitely yourself, and sadly no one seems to notice how hard you are working. Worst of all you end up with someone trying to help others but instead he is burnt out from working all day every day, bitter that no one seems to think he is trying, and his family is falling apart.
17. I am blessed to work with an amazing youth group!
18. I had 2 youth minister's growing up, both of whom were positive influences on me and served as "extra" role models.
19. I love working with the kids and seeing them mature and grow in their faith.

***Question #2: For Parents: Why is (was) your child involved in the youth group? (Check all that apply)***

Activities	71.4%	10
Free Babysitting	0.0%	0
Peer Relationships	71.4%	10
<b>Spiritual Formation</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>12</b>
Another category to check on their resume	0.0%	0
Family Strengthening	42.9%	6

Other (Please Specify):

1. Our children are not yet in the YG.
2. You

***Question #3: Students: Why do you participate in the youth group?***

1. Leadership of example. Just the right thing to do
2. The positive influences all around me. The people in the youth group all want the same things I want and we are all there to help each other spiritually.
3. I love doing service projects and I love being around the youth group. It is good to be around people who are christians when you are always bombarded by the world. I also feel there is a need to be involved in youth group activities for many other reasons.
4. There is a good balance between activities and service. And even when we are doing service, we still know how to make it fun! We have been taught to be unified and to be encouragers. And we try our best to be so!
5. To try to meet new friends. I dont have any at school but its nice to be welcome sometime
6. It encourages me in my christian walk and i love being around great christian people

***Question #4: Should parents chaperone youth activities on a consistent basis?***

Yes	84.6%	22
No	15.4%	4

1. The presence of parents at YG activities helps to reaffirm the importance of spritual growth. It sends a message to your own kids and the kids of other parents that family involvement at church is important.
2. Parents should know and be a part of what is going on in the youth group, they don't have to be at everything, but it is a good way to interact with other parents and teens.
3. to get to know other families
4. to get parents familiar to what is going on in the church
5. I think it is important for a parent to be involved as much as possible with their activities. I think it helps to build the family relationship. Yes it would be easier just to send them off to youth activities and take it easy but it believe it makes the family stronger to do things together. It also lets my child know that I am there for them, not just content on them being out there in the world on their own.

6. TG exists to serve and support families...not to raise the teens. Parents show the teens that adults care about them when they take an active part in chaperoning. Also, it is important for teens to know other trusted Christian adults (other than their parents) who care about them. Chaperoning trips helps to establish those relationships between teens and adults that are needed. Teens need MANY great Christian examples in their lives, not just their parents.
7. to stay connect with their teens and their friends, to help open communications lines. Kids open up so much on retreats and overnight camps.
8. If at all possible.
9. example of parents to the youth. Opportunity to build deeper relationships between adults and youth
10. Parents need to know what is going on and grow spiritually along with their child.
11. I would say no. Yes it is a good thing, but I think a lot of the time students are more open to get outside of the box if they don't have the pressure of their parents watching over their shoulder. I think having more young adults being involved would help more because seeing their parents do something might not always be the cool thing in their minds, but if they see someone a little older than them do it they might be more led to be outside of the norm.
12. No matter how much teenagers think they don't need parents to supervise them...they do!
13. We need parents to be examples to their children and that is a way to do it. It also makes sure there is always a chaperone at an activity.
14. I think it is good for the children for their parents to be involved.
15. I think it is important to have chaperones at a lot of activities but there are some where the teens should be able to formulate and confess things together where there are no parents around; more of the truth will come out. Sometimes when we have told someone else first, it is easier to tell our parents. WE Love our parents but we are around them all the time so its nice to get away.
16. gives kid and parent something in common to talk about, helps youth minister out, builds bonds between adults and kids
17. They should be willing to participate and there children should enjoy their presents
18. Some times their presence gets in the way of their nown teen being able to get the full effects of a particular event. This happens when an over controlling parent tries their hand at chaperoning.
19. There is a time when it would be nice to get the youth away from parents and talk with them, but teens and parents need to work together to build their spiritual foundations.
20. As a youth minister, I love having parents as helpers.
21. The real youth ministers in every congregation should be the parents. Depending upon just one man and perhaps his wife to minister to an entire group of teenagers is not only ineffective, but could be damaging to the youth. I also think this is a good way to bridge the gap that sometimes exists between teens and parents.

22. It helps with the continuity between the family and the youth group. It also gives the youth a powerful example to follow.
23. For the most part, however bringing in younger couples like Mark and Jill and singles like Shelby and others has certainly had special blessings

***Question #5: What are some negative aspects of youth ministries? (Be Honest but be respectful)***

1. Sometimes there is pressure to be at "every" activity. This pressure is not put on by any specific individual(s), but it is the culture of youth group ministries that are strong. This is probably typical at many churches with a highly involved core group of teens and church members. This is not entirely a bad thing!!! It is my desire that our kids will WANT to be at every activity and that they will selectively choose which non-church activities "trump" church activities. What I mean by that is that I hope our children (with our guidance) will only choose other activities over YG activities when it is ABSOLUTELY necessary. Sometimes our calendar is booked and stressful between church, school, and work activities for the adults and kids, but I want to see as many church-related activities for our kids on there as possible!!!! I realistically know that it is not possible to be at every church related activity just as it is not possible to be involved in every school or community activity we would like to be involved in.
2. At times it interferes with family time, trips have to be scheduled around camp or other activities, but it is that way with extracurricular school activities, also so I don't really look at it as a negative. Sometimes the weekends are just too busy, especially if you have to drive your child to and from each activity.
3. Too many activities and too little "foundation". Members of other churches tell me that they wish that their youth could be taught to participate in church services and do other activities that seem to be growing their faith instead of just creating enjoyment.
4. sometimes there becomes separate little groups
5. I think some people may see it as just fun activities to entertain our youth but I see the spiritual base that it has given my children and it makes me jealous. I never had that growing up and I wish I had. My children amaze me with their spiritual foundation.
6. The YM can become discouraged b/c of MANY things (mainly b/c the job revolves around other people!), parents can become reliant on the YM to solve their families' problems.
7. Like all things/people we tend to do the same things over and over. We get in a rut. Very challenging to do/study new things.
8. I am not sure that I know any.
9. Not enough parental support. I wish more would step up to get involved, then more students would get involved
10. Too many activities, cost in activities, students focusing on self and their benefit.
11. Cliques, people only want to do the fun stuff instead of letting God take control and get

uncomfortable.

12. The cliques. I think it has gotten better since I've been in the youth group, but still something that could be worked on.
13. It can take away from family time when there are a lot of activities. Sometimes cliques form.
14. I can't think of any.
15. Some are exclusive and do not welcome...not saying that ours is but SOME
16. Lack of parental involvement No accountability of kids by parents Great expectations from everyone, but they're not willing to help
17. You can't please everyone.
18. Not having youth in the program I am not sure I can answer this question.
19. Hanging out with the boys rather than the girls. When we go to the mall not letting others stop in stores but you can. =)
20. Disruptions in class like talking in class, texting in class, not bringing Bibles to class, lack of participation in activities with exception of the "fun" activities. Trying to get teens to not "play" the role of a Christian but to live the role, then have parents tear it all down with their attitudes and actions outside the church and inside the church for that matter.
21. In my opinion, many programs have become all about getting more kids into the program. They have "gateway" activity after "gateway" activity to bring more children in. But once the children do come in all they continue to do is more "gateway" activities. There never is much substance to the program.
22. Sometimes favoritism is a problem.
23. Sometimes youth ministry is the only spiritual resource in the child's life. That is not adequate. Children really need the input and support of family in spiritual growth.
24. Some can be irresponsible, but I think this trend is going away as they become more educated. Some are more concerned with being hip or trendy in their lessons than they are concerned about the content of those lessons. If the youth minister is looked at as the "youth director" or "social coordinator" for the youth then the directive of his work has been forgotten and he will not be effective.
25. When differing opinions and attitudes clash between adults it can really stunt the growth of the youth both as a group and individually. We need more flexibility and forgiveness within our youth programs.

***Question #6: How could a youth ministry become more family-oriented? Please give some concrete ideas rather than abstract thought!***

1. We enjoyed the family devo ideas you gave out before. We did them, and it was great. That was an outreach you did that equipped us with ideas we were not previously in the habit of doing. Have some parent-child activities (fishing, day retreat, service projects

specifically designed for families to come together to complete together, etc.)

2. I have enjoyed the Sunday morning classes with the youth group. Maybe, a cookout or picnic at the park once or twice a year.
3. Get to know more about each family member of the youth.
4. visiting with families one on one
5. I think ours is family oriented in that parent involvement is welcomed and needed to help you pull everything off.
6. Host parent-child activities, host parent-child activities that the whole family can attend (even those family members that are not in 7-12 grades), host classes/events that facilitate adult/child understanding of each other (like this class, etc.)
7. Have retreats/overnight/day long activities that are family based - ex - father/daughter type events. Also have a non-youth session - maybe a "parents" retreat - for open discussion of what parents need to hear. So many parents think all those "bad" things won't happen to their kids. Talk about what to do when their child sins. None of us really want to admit our kids are going to make some bad choices.
8. Continue the emphasis on family activities. Help families to plan time together.
9. This class has been awesome. I would like to see more parent - teen situations be it class or trips.
10. Get to know families like a question of the week. What family has a pet pig? Devos at different families houses and a parent lead them.
11. Families could be in charge of leading devos for the teens, and helping out in service projects.
12. I think parent-teen devos are great. And the class with the parents sounded like a great idea too. One thing that could be suggested, and it may have already been done, but having written out devos could be an idea.
13. Doing activities together. At rake-n-run encourage parents to help with their children or at other service projects we do. Have family fun days- like going to the park or zoo. encourage parents to go on retreats.
14. Have get-togethers at different homes.
15. having monthly devotionals where the family are invited and families will sit together rather than being by friends.
16. family devotionals lunch with entire family respect family times (supper time, game night)
17. If parents and their children have team building exercises. If they opened up more.
18. It must first strive to teach both youth and parents. The youth minister must try to stay independent of the parents in how you conduct the program. parents have tunnel vision when it comes to their children and the program has to be for all kinds and economic classes. you as the youth minister must stay above the underlying group dynamics.
19. ?
20. Have parent/teen classes and teach such things as their roles in the home, problems in the

home due to lack of communication and such.

21. I try to base my program around families. We have monthly get togethers where families are invited. We try to have as many parents chaparone as possible so that the parents and teens can both grow together. I send out a weekly email with information about current youth struggles. I try to have parents teach our Bible classes. I invite a few parents to class every week so that they can see what we are up to and can be involved also. I also like to start my parent's meetings with a quiz about the youth group. And example of a question would be "What is being taught in the youth group class this quarter?" Just get parents thinking about their involvment in thier child's spiritual development.
22. Do more things as a family. Camp-outs, canoeing.. etc... activities where the whole family can attend
23. Parent-Teen classes and retreats. Involve parents as sponsors for youth activities. Seek parents to teach youth classes. Youth minister should develop close ties to the parents and teens.
24. Specifically planning "family devotionals" in which the entire family (including little ones) is invited to worship together in a more intimate setting. Also, if the youth minister is able to get a core group of parents together who are willing to serve as advocates for the "family ministry" his job will become much easier and effective.
25. Parental involvement is huge in this issue. Youth ministries and family units should remain in close unity with one another. They should not become separated from one another.

### ***Question #7: If you could give a Youth Minister some advice what would that advice be?***

1. The results of your work are great. Just as for any teacher, you may not fully realize the fruits of your work for many years. Your work is VERY important to families and the Lord's kingdom! Relationships change lives and you, Robbie, are forming relationships that are changing lives here. Continue to think outside the box. The parent-teen class is awesome.
2. Keep doing what you are doing and ask us for help if you need it.
3. Call on people to help. Sometimes people won't volunteer, but will help if singled out to help. Sometimes they help only because they were asked, and much to their surprise, benefit from the experience. Don't hate to ask. Pray about who to ask and do it!
4. keep up with always trying to hone you skills personally and spiritually.
5. Make decisions and be firm. Don't give in to reasons/excuses. Example when you set a deadline, stick to it. If you continually don't enforce deadlines, such as signing up for stuff, the teens and parents learn they can not show up or not turn something in and it is no big deal. But it is a big deal when money/planning are involved. I think our church loses money for this very reason. If a teen signs up, they need to pay up.
6. Your job is ssooooooo important! It is worthwhile!!!! Youth ministers make a difference

in the lives of families and in the future of the church!!! Don't neglect your own family, but teach by example how to serve your family, other families, and the world. Make time for your own family. You deserve it and your family deserves it. Love the Lord first and others will see it!

7. Share survey answers! No really - keep making those hard decisions - preaching (beating into kid'd heads) God's word! Be so watchful of study material used. Stick to the Bible!
8. Don't look for immediate results. We have a tendency in the church to look at numbers (baptisms, offerings, etc). Regardless of whether or not we feel that the ministry is getting the results that we would like to see, it is effective. It may be 10 years down the road before we see the fruits of our labors, but our children's souls depend on it. It is, quite possibly, the most important work going on in the WORLD today.
9. Keep doing what you are doing .
10. You don't have to do everything.
11. Let God take control and surrender everything to him and he will do the most through you to benefit the kingdom. His will and plan is always better than yours. Don't let past mistakes or failures bring you down use the past to change the future.
12. I think you're doing an awesome job! Keep up the good work :)
13. Don't give up on activities you try to do even if only a few show up. Someone will benefit from it.
14. Be upbeat, happy and never negative.
15. Cling tight to ALL members of the youth group because the ones that don't talk to you are more likely to need you than those who talk to you all the time. Get the youth group involved with trying to reach those who have been neglected or have fallen away.
16. Take it easy. This is an endurance race not a sprint. Keep going when things are down, they'll look up soon.
17. It is okay that you can not please everybody.
18. Try to be the youth minister you would like to have had.
19. Stay the way you are your doing fine Robbie.
20. Have VERY thick skin because you go back and forward from hero to zero in no time flat. Get involved in your teens lives, but also get to know your teen's parents. Most of all protect yourself and NEVER get caught alone with just one teen, even in counseling the teen have some one else in the building. One false accusation will ruin your career as a minister.
21. .
22. Give kids worksheets to help them with personal prayer time and devotionals. That would be very helpful! :)
23. Always be a unifying influence for families, not a dividing force.
24. Be aware of the spiritual needs of the youth group and find ways to address those needs. I know this is cliched, but these kids will know if you don't care about them, so let your love be genuine (Rom. 12:9) and then they will care about what you are telling them. Also,

please take time for yourselves and for your family. Burnout in youth ministry seems to be even higher than in pulpit jobs and I think a lot of this has to do with the oddly scheduled hours and work load. Jesus didn't save every soul he met and neither will you!

25. To hang in and not give up when it gets tough. There will be tough times when it seems everyone is out to get but just keep plugging away.
26. As the wife of a former youth minister, I say NEVER neglect your wife and children. Schedule non-negotiable family time, date time, and daddy only time on your monthly calendar.