

Teaching your teen about cheating



Teens will be faced with cheating well beyond their school years.

Let's face it; every single person has had the opportunity to cheat. The problem is that many of us, including our teens, take this shortcut to get a better grade, to gain approval from an authority figure, to compensate for not being prepared, or because of sheer laziness and apathy. Whatever the excuse, this issue of cheating has become a major epidemic for teens. In fact, according to a survey done by Christianity Today, only six percent of Christian teens say they have never cheated. Many teens today can justify their actions by thinking things like, "Cheating on homework or a test is not that bad", or "Everybody does it, so to get into the college I want, I must do it as well." To help teens develop correct views on cheating, parents must challenge teens to ponder these three questions. First, **what does God say about cheating?** Cheating is not a gray area for God. Exodus 20:15 says, "You shall not steal." Cheating IS stealing, whether on homework, a test, or in competition. It is stealing someone else's time, efforts, or knowledge. Second, **what do my parents think about cheating?** Your teen must know how you feel about cheating and the consequences that will ensue if they are caught. Remember, your views on cheating should not just be verbalized, but also seen in your actions. If you live a life of integrity, your teen will be much more likely to imitate your positive actions. Third, **what do I (your teen) think about cheating?** Remind your teen that they are being watched by their peers. Is a better grade worth getting caught and losing your credibility with teachers and peers who know you are a Christian? We must teach our families how to use God's word and His truths to raise the bar of integrity in our homes, in our schools, and in the world.

Youth Sunday Headlines May Schedule

One of the most exciting events in our church year is coming on May 21. Youth Sunday is always a great day of worship as our young people work together to lead the morning worship service. Our youth have been planning this service for several weeks and the excitement level is building. Everyone is preparing to play their part in this excellent service!

This year's service will be similar to previous years but a few twists are in store for everyone who will be there. There will be familiar music with some energetic additions to the service. Also, there will be a few new characters who will help us get a proper perspective on what worship is supposed to be about.

Regardless of how old we are or what kind of worship style we enjoy, the Youth Sunday service will certainly offer everyone the opportunity to come face to face with God. It is going to be a great day - don't miss it!

Pulse

Abcnews.com conducted a survey of high schools students regarding the issue of cheating. Here are some of their findings:

How many students at your school cheat?

- 26% - Hardly Any/None
- 44% - Some
- 15% - A Lot
- 12% - Most

(abcnews.com)



A teen would be more likely to cheat if...

- 34% (Yes) 65% (No) - You knew you would never be caught.
- 28% (Yes) 71% (No) - You had a teacher who didn't seem to care about you and your work.
- 16% (Yes) 83% (No) - It was a class that didn't matter.

(abcnews.com)

The Parent POV (point of view)

Cheating is a topic that parents must tackle head on if they want their teen to make the right decision when faced with this very tempting decision. Here are some questions to start this very important conversation:

1. How do you define cheating?
2. Have you ever cheated? Did you get caught? How did you feel afterward whether you were caught or not?
3. What are the positives and negatives of cheating? Based on the answers given, how will this affect your decision to cheat in the future?
4. How do you think a parent or teacher should react when you are caught cheating?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. God would put in your teen a strong discernment of right from wrong.
2. Your teen would be motivated to work hard to accomplish their goals and that they would not be tempted to take short cuts like cheating.
3. In every circumstance, you will be able to live and model a life of integrity and truth for your whole family.
4. God will surround your teen with friends who will keep each other accountable and set the example for those around them.

Upcoming Youth Events

Summer is here and our youth are going to be busy! Here is a list of the bug things coming up for Summer 2006:

- June 3 -- Graduate Cookout
- June 4 -- Graduate Sunday
- June 9 -- Last Day of School
- June 19-23 -- Basketball Camp (Children-AM/Youth PM)
- July 2-7 -- Mountain Outreach
- July 10-14 -- Youth Camp @ Garden City
- July 20-24 -- Graduation Cruise
- July 31-Aug. 4 -- Vacation Bible School



Did you know...

* 51% of Christian teens think it is OK to ask a student who's already taken a test what is on the test. (christianitytoday.com)

* When "Who's Who Among American High School Students" surveyed some of the nation's top achievers, 40% admitted cheating on a test or quiz. A total of 65% admitted that they'd copied someone else's homework. (cbsnews.com)

* There appears to be a huge disconnect between young people's attitudes about ethical behavior and their actions. Almost all – 98% – said it is important for them to be a person of good character, and 92% said they are satisfied with their ethics and character, but many still lie, cheat, and steal. (Josephson Institute of Ethics)

* A poll by Junior Achievement, a group that teaches kids about the business world, found that 33% of teens would act unethically to make money or to get ahead if no one else would find out. (Psychology Today)



Music alternative

David Crowder and the other members of the David Crowder Band recognized early on the "disconnect between the church and the disenchanting, twenty-something generation, and sought to bridge the gap." As worship leader of University Baptist Church in Waco, TX, which he helped found, he began writing songs that celebrated "the goodness and nearness of God. The band's raw lyrical honesty and innovative, yet catchy alt-pop sound created fans out of the church and unchurched alike." Despite numerous Dove Award nominations and other successes, Crowder remains humble and says, "When our depravity meets His Divinity, it is a beautiful collision." (Sparrow Records)

TRENDS

What is expected to be hot this spring? Your teen may want to purchase the following:

- * Gaucho Pants (gals)
- * Bermuda Shorts (guys/gals)
- * Flip Flops (guys/gals)
- * Bold, Fun Prints (gals)

(fashion.about.com)

music spotlight



Albums:

- "Daniel Powter" - 4/2006
- "Bad Day" - 1/2005

Background:

Daniel Powter was raised in British Columbia. He played the violin but was bullied for it. This, along with dyslexia and thus difficulty learning to read music, left him disinterested. He made a switch to the piano where original songs began to flow. Though entering college as a music student, he left after two years to pursue his music career in other ways. He hooked up with a collaborator in Vancouver and released a demo. Warner Bros. Records signed him. His music "focuses on everyday life, though he doesn't miss the dirt swept under society's rug." His music is largely successful in France and throughout Europe and is expected to be in the U.S. as well. (yahoomusic.com)

What Parents Should Know: "Dark lyrics spread through those happy melodies, some of which he sings with a hint of sarcasm and anger tightening the quiver in his falsetto."

Parent/Teen Q&A: Powter says, "I'm a realist. All I really want is to connect with an audience that feels the way I feel." Q: To what or to whom do you feel like you connect? What makes you feel that way?

FILMWATCH



End of the school year releases are targeting teens. Know the new releases!

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
Just My Luck	PG-13	For some brief sexual references	Comedy, romance	Lindsay Lohan, Christopher Pine, Samaire Armstrong, Bree Turner
Mission Impossible III	PG-13	For intense sequences of frenetic violence & menace, disturbing images & some sensuality	Action	Tom Cruise, Philip Seymore Hoffman, Ving Rhames
Stick It	PG-13	For some crude remarks	Comedy, drama, sports	Jeff Bridges, Missy Peregym, Vanessa Lengies, Tarah Paige

MAY 2006 SCHEDULE

May 3		Normal Wednesday Schedule
May 7	4:00-7:00 PM	Normal Sunday Schedule plus Spring Fling
May 10		Normal Wednesday Schedule
May 14		Mother's Day Normal Sunday Schedule except No Sunday Evening Activities
May 17		Normal Wednesday Schedule
May 21	12:15 PM	Youth Sunday Normal Sunday AM Schedule plus... Youth go to La Carreta after church No Sunday Evening Activities
May 24		Normal Wednesday Schedule
May 26-28		Children's Camp (Camp Kanuga)
May 28		Normal Sunday Schedule except No Sunday Evening Activities
May 31		Normal Wednesday Schedule

NORMAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:45 AM	Worship
4:00 PM	Ainesis
5:00 PM	Youth Crosstraining
5:45 PM	Snack Supper
6:15 PM	Youth Discipleship
7:00 PM	L.I.F.E. Worship Service

NORMAL WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 PM	Family Night Supper Youth Bible Study - "Jesus, the One and Only"
6:45 PM	Youth Discipleship/ Missions



COMING IN JUNE 2006

June 3 - Graduate Cookout
June 4 - Graduate Sunday
June 18 - Father's Day
June 13 - Summer Bible Study Begins

CPBC Family Ministry
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theParentLink

a newsletter for parents of teenagers

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