

DEVOTED TEENS MEETING SCRIPT

Gain the attention of attendees and welcome them to the meeting. Cover any announcements or other business before launching into the actual script. You may need to take some time to provide some general directions or guidelines about how the meeting time will work. Once everyone is settled, either pray for your time together or ask a volunteer to do so, and then begin.

To get us started, I want us all to consider a question together. That question is this¹: “What’s the point?” Specifically, I want to hear your thoughts about what you believe the point of our youth ministry is here at [insert the name of your church].

Allow attendees to share their ideas. You may want to record them on a dry-erase board or a large paper tablet. Encourage responses. Give feedback on what they have to say. After a few moments, proceed.

All of those are great ideas, and I think many of them play into what I would like to put forth as the point of our youth ministry. And that is simply this²: Devoted Teens. Regardless of what we’ve said in the past, I’d like for us to begin tonight to place all of our focus on ensuring that the teenagers in our ministry become devoted. And obviously not just devoted to anything, but devoted to God. Completely sold out to Him. As we’re commanded in Deuteronomy 6:5: “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” And Jesus affirmed this in Mark 12:30 when He said that the greatest commandment is, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Isn’t this what we want? A youth group of teens devoted to God with their whole heart, whole soul, whole mind, and whole strength?

So, that is what I want us to talk about tonight³: How to make devoted teens. But to begin with I think we have to admit that there are differences between us and the teenagers with whom we live and/or work. Sometimes we can approach them like an alien species, something so otherworldly. We don’t how to talk to them. We don’t know how to interact with them. When we try we get blank stares back at us on Sunday mornings or around the dinner table. So, I want us to take a few minutes to identify what makes them unique and distinguishes them as a generation. But before we get to them, I want us to begin by first taking a look at us. Take a couple of minutes and talk with the people around you about⁴ what defined your generation. When you think back on your own teenager years, what kinds of things stand out for you?

Give groups two minutes to discuss. Then ask for volunteers from a few groups to share with everyone what they talked about. Again, you may want to record their ideas on a dry-erase board or a large paper tablet.

Now let’s shift gears. When you consider the teenagers that sit in your Bible study classes or that live in your homes⁵, what defines their generation? Again, take a couple of minutes to consider this with the people around you.

Give groups another two minutes to discuss and then ask for new volunteers to share what they talked about in their groups.

Thinking back over these two lists, I want you to respond to this question⁶: What do we have in common? Us and the teens in our lives?

Call on volunteers to share with the whole group. If you're getting a good response, lead a short discussion.

Many times we can feel overwhelmed when trying to relate to teenagers. We wonder whether anything we have to say is relevant to them, whether we can speak their language or if they even want to hear anything we have to say. But one of the things I want us to realize right off the bat is that we have a lot more in common than we sometimes think⁷.

Play the "History of American Teens" video.

When you consider that initial question of what do the generations of yesterday have in common with today's generation⁸, what stands out to you from that video?

Allow one or two minutes for some volunteers to share their reactions to the video. Share what specifically stood out for you.

It's even amazing to see that the term "teenager" has only been around since 1943. In fact, church ministries dedicated just to teenagers is barely over half-a-century old. In many ways we are definitely still figuring out how to do this. So, when we do, it's important to not get caught up on our differences or the seemingly enormous gap between our generations, but rather to focus on what we have in common. If we don't, the prospect of having to face a group of teenagers can be pretty scary⁹. And we have to remember to not be scared. After all, a group of teenagers is like a pack of wolves¹⁰. They can smell the fear, and will wait for us to turn our backs and then pounce!

Of course, I'm kidding. Though it really can feel like that. But teenagers are teenagers¹¹. The way they develop and process things in their lives doesn't change very much. It's just the outward expression that changes. They're just like we were¹². Notes stuck in lockers are now text messages¹³. The local hang-out where you caught up on what everyone was up to is now what Facebook does¹⁴. The rebellion of Madonna is now the rebellion of Lady Gaga.

The major difference, though, in teenage culture today versus the culture in which we grew up is the speed at which culture moves¹⁵, how quickly things change. It's so fast we can't keep up. Literally. And when we try, we just find ourselves exhausted¹⁶, worn out and burnt out. What we need to realize is that we don't have to. Keep up, that is. In fact we need to do the opposite¹⁷. We need to just stop. But don't take my word for it. Take theirs¹⁸.

Play the "Teenage Culture Today" video.

What do you take away from that video? What really stood out to you?

Allow one or two minutes for some volunteers to share their reactions to the video. Again, share what specifically stood out for you.

One of the main reasons we need to stop¹⁹ chasing after all the different ways the teenagers in our lives express themselves is that in trying to know and understand the culture we can miss out on knowing them. And that's what they really want. Not to know about them, about their interests or about their friends. They want us to know who they are. We don't need to know all about all teenagers. We just need to know our teenagers. The one's we've raised or the ones we hang out with. But when we're considering how to make devoted teens²⁰, we need to recognize that many of them have many things in common, particularly some of the questions we just saw in the video: questions about faith²¹.

Now faith isn't something that's very easy to quantify. It's personal. So, when we consider the faith lives of American teenagers we're going to do so on the backdrop of the way they express that faith outwardly, specifically their involvement in church²². Church involvement is not a perfect measurement of faith, but it's pretty good. After all, you cannot love God and not love His Church. In other words, if a teen is devoted to God then they will also be devoted to the church. But before we get into church involvement, let's go back to faith²³.

When we consider the faith of American teenagers, we can find that, on the surface, things don't look too bad. Here's what I mean²⁴. 84% of American teenagers say they believe in "God." Now this doesn't necessarily mean the Christian God, but a vast majority of American teens at least say they believe in some god²⁵. 82% say that religious faith is important in shaping their daily life. So 84% believe in a god and 82% say that belief is important in how they live every day. Then, even better²⁶, 75% of American Teenagers identify themselves as "Christian." So, not only does a great majority of teens have a belief in God that is important to them but most of them believe that God is the God of the Bible made known in the person of Jesus Christ. See? That's pretty good news. Maybe too good, in fact. Because when we hear stats like that, most of us are caught off guard because it doesn't line up with the reality we see around us.

When we turn to the church²⁷, we find stats like these²⁸... In the past 30 days, 60% of American teenagers attended a church service of some kind. That's not too bad. But what about our youth ministries? Well²⁹, 23% attended a youth group social activity. That's a lot less, and it doesn't stop there³⁰. 20% attended a Sunday school class and³¹ only 14% attended a small group Bible study. Now remember, three quarters of American teens say they believe that Jesus is the Son of God and for most of them their faith is really important to them. Yet, they're not really participating in a youth group. So, what does that tell us? It tells me that what we've been doing in youth ministry hasn't been helping them in their faith journey.

And what have we been doing in youth ministry? Basically we've just been trying to get them to come. We've tried to make our youth groups like a carnival³², believing that if we were flashy enough and fun enough and exciting enough and could compete with their culture enough then maybe they'd be interested in checking things out and, if we were really lucky, sticking around for awhile. We've normally stuck someone out front, someone like me, who's pretty much a ringmaster³³, trying to make sure that everything runs smoothly, that the crowd has a great time, and that everyone gets their money's

worth. And while we've been yelling at everyone out there trying to get them come to us, back behind us there's been a mass migration³⁴ happening where the teenagers we've had have been leaving by the droves.

Here's what this migration looks like. Let's say that we have a youth group of ten teenagers³⁵. They're active. They come to various youth group activities, maybe not everything, but enough that they're regulars. They're just like anyone in our current group³⁶. 7 out of the ten will completely leave the church after youth group. Sometime between the ages of 18 and 21 they'll just stop going³⁷. And for 65% of them, that decline, they're leaving, doesn't wait until then but begins at the age of 16. Does anyone want to guess what happens at age 16 that is a catalyst for them to stop attending church?

Call on a few volunteers to guess. Chances are someone will figure out that it corresponds with when they get their drivers license.

That's right³⁸. They get their drivers license. That's what enables them to stop coming, but why do you suppose they don't want to come in the first place?

Allow attendees to share what they think. Again, someone will probably offer up "rebellion" as a reason. If not, prompt them.

Many of us might guess that the main reason they stop coming is because it's just a part of their teenage rebellion. Maybe as parents we've been making them come and participate, and the moment they get a small taste of freedom, they bolt just to stick it to us. That might be what many of us would think, but if we did, then many of us would be wrong. Dr. Christian Smith, with the National Study of Youth and Religion, said this³⁹: "Most teenagers aren't interested in being religiously rebellious and are content to follow in their parents' footsteps with little investment in actually knowing and articulating those beliefs."

So, if rebellion isn't the reason teenagers leave the church, then what is? Well, here's some of the reasons that teenagers and young adults gave Smith in his study⁴⁰. They simply want a break from church⁴¹. Church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical. Maybe even both⁴². They moved to college and stopped attending church⁴³. Their work responsibilities prevented them from attending⁴⁴. They moved too far away from their church. You'll notice with this one and the one about college that they didn't bother to find another church to attend⁴⁵. They became too busy⁴⁶. They didn't feel connected to the people in their church⁴⁷. They disagreed with their church's stance of political or social issues⁴⁸. They chose to spend more time with friends outside of church. So, with this reason they were just involved in church for the social aspect⁴⁹. They were only going to church to please others. Finally, the rebellious reason comes out, here at the end.

Now that you've heard all of these reasons, how would you sum up the reason that teenagers and young adults are leaving the church?

Call on a few volunteers to share what they think.

I think one way it can be summed up is this⁵⁰: to them, church just wasn't a big deal. In other words⁵¹, they weren't devoted teens. And just what is a devoted teen? Well, let's go

back to our ten-teenager youth group⁵². Out of our ten teens⁵³, only 1 would be considered devoted. Actually, less than that. Only 8% of American teenagers could be classified as devoted.

So⁵⁴, what are the strenuous requirements to be considered devoted? Here they are⁵⁵. They attend religious services weekly or more⁵⁶. Their faith is very or extremely important in daily life⁵⁷. They feel very or extremely close to God⁵⁸. They are currently involved in a religious youth group⁵⁹. They pray a few times a week or more⁶⁰. They read scripture once or twice a month or more. Now, look at this list. These qualifications aren't so strenuous after all, are they? In fact, they're the basics. And yet less than one out of ten American teenagers could be considered devoted. So, when we consider the reasons they give for dropping out of church and what Christian Smith says about them not being rebellious against their parents' faith, we have to conclude the following: Teenagers aren't leaving their faith. It was never theirs in the first place.

Considering how to make devoted teens⁶¹ is increasingly important then, because teenagers and young adults are less likely to leave what they consider to be theirs. Of course, we all know that you don't make a teenager do anything. So, maybe a better topic for us to consider is⁶² how to help make devoted teens. I have to tell you, though⁶³, that there is no magic bullet for this. However, there are some factors that greatly influence whether or not a teenager becomes and remains devoted. I want us to talk a little bit about what those factors are and the place they have in our ministry. But first, I want you to hear about how one ministry, Student Life, which helped put together this presentation, is trying to help make devoted teens⁶⁴.

Play the "Developing Devoted Teens" video. You may want to take a short break before or after this video if time is running long, before moving on with the meeting.

That's what I want to see in our youth ministry, what we just saw at the end of that video. I want to have a group of teenagers who can say, "I am devoted." I want to have them not only be able to say that, but to also be able to articulate why, to look back and see how God worked in their lives, hopefully and by His grace, through any influence we were able to have. And there are seven areas in which we can work to have that influence⁶⁵. They are seven key ingredients. Does anyone want to guess what the first ingredient is? I'll give you a hint. It's the number one influence on every area of a teenager's life.

Allow a few volunteers to guess. If no one comes up with "parents," give it to them.

Yes. The first ingredient is⁶⁶ "parents." For all of you who are parents of teenagers, I know it doesn't always seem like you have much influence over your teens, but rest assured, you do. Research continues to prove it over and over. In Dr. Smith's study he labeled this factor as⁶⁷ "Strong Parental Religion," and he found a couple of main reasons for why parents, and their personal faith, are such a strong influence on whether or not a teenager is devoted.

The first⁶⁸ is religious socialization. Here's what this means... In the last video, one of the experts talked about how youth pastors are the ones who are with the teenagers the most. This is true when it comes to ministry, but, of course, it's not true in the greater context of life. You parents are with them the most. You live with them and they with you. They see how you live. So, you are the greatest picture of what faith looks like. If you're

living a devoted life, then the teenagers in your house are more likely to live a devoted life.

The second reason why the personal religion of a teenager's parents matters so much is⁶⁹ the avoidance of relationship breakdown. Few relationships are more vital and important than the relationship between a parent and child. Parents who are themselves devoted tend to have stronger, healthier relationships with their children and the rest of their family. This is important because of the trust it builds between them. It is, therefore, more likely that teenagers will seek help and advice from their parents, and not just in spiritual matters.

How about the second ingredient? Does anyone want to take a guess about what it could be?

Allow attendees to guess.

The second ingredient is⁷⁰ adults. But not just any adults. No. We're not talking about teachers and coaches and band directors. No. That is, unless they are also⁷¹ adults at their church. Now, what difference do the adults at their church make? Well, they don't have to make any difference whatsoever. But, if they choose to be involved in the lives of the teenagers from their congregation, they can make a massive difference. They can provide teenagers with⁷² support. Life can be hard. Adolescence can be near impossible. Sometimes teens need someone on whom they can lean. Their parents can be a great support, but a little extra never hurts.

Adults can also provide teenagers with⁷³ advice. Life can also be confusing, and teenagers are full of questions. Their friends are just as out of it as they are, and there are some things teenagers can be reluctant to talk about with their parents. Having some other people to whom they can turn and trust is essential in navigating life.

In addition to support and advice, adults can also be an incredible source of⁷⁴ help. Teenagers sometimes need a ride or a tutor or other type of actual, tangible help. Knowing that there are numerous people who care about them enough to provide that help, especially as an extension of God's love for them, can make a huge difference in how those teenagers view God and the church.

Perhaps above this all, though, is that the adults in a teenager's church can provide⁷⁵ heightened enjoyment of religious participation. Adolescence is a strange time. You're caught between childhood and adulthood. Teenagers want to be grown up. They want to be treated with respect and as equals with adults. When that happens at church, they enjoy going to church more. When they enjoy going to church more, they're more likely to continue going even later in life.

And when we're talking about adults in the lives of teenagers, there's not just a need for one or two. In fact, this is when the old saying, "the more, the merrier," certainly applies. The more adults that a teenager has actively involved in their spiritual lives, the less likely they are to drop out. Look at this⁷⁶: when there are no adults, there is an 89% chance they will abandon their faith⁷⁷. With one there is a 76% chance⁷⁸. With two, 68%⁷⁹. From 3-4 means there is a 59% chance⁸⁰. 5-6 leads to a 57% and⁸¹ 7 or more results in

just a 50% chance. Obviously, there are all of these other factors, but adults, all of you youth workers and Bible study leaders and volunteers, are absolutely essential.

Anyone want to take a guess about the third ingredient?

Allow attendees to guess.

Our third key ingredient is⁸² prayer. It makes sense that prayer is one of our key ingredients because prayer is one of the qualifications of a devoted teen. But this isn't simply asking grace before family meals or being a part of corporate prayer times at church. The type of prayer that affects whether a teen is devoted or not is⁸³ personal prayer, and personal prayer matters for three main reasons. The first⁸⁴ is religious belief and desire reinforcement. If a teenager says they believe in God, that He is real, that He cares about them and them about Him and that He wants to know them just as they want to know Him, then prayer is one of the avenues in which they live that out. They walk the walk and don't just talk the talk. And this practice of belief actually ends up reinforcing that initial belief.

The second reason prayer is an important factor is⁸⁵ conserving accumulated "religious capital." What this basically means is that practice makes perfect. The more a teen prays, they better they get at praying. The better they are at praying, the more likely they are to pray. The more likely they are to pray, the more likely they will recognize answers to their prayers. This continues to provide them with assurances of the value of their belief as well as its validity.

The third reason prayer is a key ingredient is⁸⁶ the drive for identity continuity. Adolescence is all about discovering and deciding who you are and who you are going to be. If you are invested as a teenager in becoming a person of prayer, then that becomes a part of who you are, something you are known for by others and that you know yourself for. Therefore, you are less likely to abandon that practice later on in life because it has become an essential part of your identity.

How about ingredient number four? If prayer was number three, what do you think is number four?

Allow attendees to guess.

Ingredient #4 is⁸⁷ scripture. Now, we're not just talking about hearing scripture used in sermons or seeing Bible verses hung around the house. This ingredient involves more than that. It has to do with the personal time that a teenager puts into⁸⁸ reading God's Word. Reading of scripture shares some reasons for its importance with personal prayer, but there are also some unique reasons as well. The first being⁸⁹ that it provides a comprehensive view of God and His work. A teenager learns who God is and how he has interacted with people throughout history. As they gain this understanding they benefit from greater insight into who God continues to be and how He continues to interact with His people today.

Reading of scripture also helps provide a teenager with⁹⁰ an understanding of their belief structure. Teenagers say they believe in God as well as other parts of the Christian religion. Yet, few know what exactly they believe or why. An understanding of what the

Bible says provides them with that knowledge in greater ways than they have ever had before.

Their personal study of God's Word also gives them⁹¹ reason for and support of their faith. It is inevitable that teenagers are going to be confronted with beliefs, worldviews and opinions different from their own. Some of these will be direct challenges to their own faith. Having a personal comprehensive understanding of scripture provides them with resources they need to be able to stand confidently in their faith and provide others with answers to questions about their faith and rebuttals to challenges.

This now brings us to the fifth factor. We've covered parents, other adults, prayer, and scripture. Who thinks they know what we have left?

Allow attendees to guess.

The fifth ingredient is⁹² value, or⁹³ the importance of religious faith. Now, if you remember, 82% of American teenagers say that their belief in God is important to their daily life. So, this should be a pretty easy one. Some reasons why this is important is⁹⁴ because of motivation and drive. If what I say I believe isn't really that important to me, then why should I go on believing it? However, if I value what I believe, then I am more likely to continue believing it. This is also important because of⁹⁵ its essential nature. Not only do I think it's important, but it becomes such a vital part of who I am that I have to have it with me, just like prayer in identity formation. These are all related in a way, which brings us to the third reason the importance of religious faith makes a difference, and that is⁹⁶ the feeling of loss we experience in its absence. If it is such an essential part of our lives, then we miss it when it's not there. I notice it. Even if there is an absence, then they are likely to return to faith.

We've got just a few more ingredients to go. Does anyone want to take a stab at number six?

Allow attendees to guess.

This one's a tough one, this ingredient #6⁹⁷. We're calling it "beliefs," but we're not just talking about having beliefs. Rather, this is really about⁹⁸ teenagers not having doubts about their beliefs. On the surface, that makes sense. If a teen doesn't doubt what they believe, they can be more secure in their beliefs. But isn't doubt a part of all of our faith journeys? Then what are we saying? Doubts aren't allowed or doubts are evil? No. The reason this is such an important factor is that it provides an environment in which⁹⁹ they are free to question. Rather than ignoring questions or trying to suppress them or hide them until they become too much to handle, teenagers learn to get them out in the open and to actually take them to God, the only one able to provide the answers. Which brings us to the point that in the freedom to questions, it is essential to make sure that teens are¹⁰⁰ able to find answers. Because of this need personal prayer and scripture study and the skills needed to do both effectively become absolutely vital. Of course, in order for teens to do both effectively, they need to be¹⁰¹ equipped with reasoning and communication skills so that they can search out answers and formulate them in ways that makes sense, not only to them but to a doubting world.

Now, here we are at the last ingredient. Has anyone figured out what it might be?

Allow attendees to guess.

Our seventh ingredient is¹⁰² experiences, but not just one experience. We're talking about¹⁰³ many religious experiences. In fact, this one is similar to adults. The more religious experiences a teenager has, the more likely they are to be devoted. In the last video, you heard some of the people from Student Life talk about the summer camps they host. That's not the type of experience to which this factor is referring. These are very personal experiences including committing their lives to God, having had definite answers to prayers, having experienced at least one miracle and having one or more moving spiritual experiences. Religious experiences are important for a variety of reasons but two rise above the others.

The first is¹⁰⁴ that they bring philosophy and "theory" into reality. When religious truths are experienced rather than just believed, they seem to become more real, more concrete. This is very important for teenagers who are still learning how to wrestle with abstract concepts. The second reason religious experiences are important is¹⁰⁵ the cognitive resistance to modern secular assumptions it provides. Those are a lot of big words that basically boils down to this: we live in a world and a culture that is hostile to the Gospel. Modern secularism would tell us there is no God and that religion is at best, a small part of a person's life and at worst a crutch for the weak. However, experiencing faith in very real ways provides teenagers with what they need to be able to resist those influences.

Now, I know I told you there were seven key ingredients, but I have a treat for everyone today: a special bonus eighth ingredient, and it's a favorite topic among teenagers¹⁰⁶. Sex. But really what we mean is¹⁰⁷ abstinence, specifically sexual abstinence until marriage¹⁰⁸. We'd all hope that sexual abstinence until marriage would be the result of a teenager living a devoted life, but how can it be a factor in whether or not a teenager is devoted in the first place? There's two reasons. One is¹⁰⁹ the same cognitive resistance to modern secular assumptions that we discussed in talking about experiences. Modern secular culture tells us that sex outside of marriage is okay and that it's even the norm. Teenagers who resist this type of pressure and influence already stand apart in a very significant way. The fact that they do so because of their faith only helps solidify just how apart they stand, as well as how strongly.

The second reason sexual abstinence can be an effective factor is¹¹⁰ the increased cognitive emotional dissonance with serious religious identity and practice. So what in the world does that mean? Well all those words can be basically boiled down into one: guilt. Every major religion on Earth teaches that sex is precious and is to be reserved for a husband and wife. There is also a natural part of us that knows how valuable and special a sexual relationship is. We also understand that when we have sex outside of its intended purposes, that is something we can never change. So, sexually active teenagers experience guilt. That guilt increases when their sin stands in contrast to their religious practice. So, if they can't relieve their guilt by becoming a virgin again, then it is easier to stop the religious practice instead. Of course, as Christians, we can thankfully teach about love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. However, the best plan is to avoid the guilt in the first place.

So, what are we supposed to do with all this? Well¹¹¹, I want us to take a close look at our own ministry, and it is our ministry, not mine. I want us to take a close look as we consider¹¹² how to help make devoted teens. I want us to take a close look in light¹¹³ of the eight key ingredients we just discussed.

Let's start by talking about what we're doing right¹¹⁴.

Lead a discussion on how your ministry is currently focusing on the eight key ingredients for the purpose of helping to make devoted teens.

Now let's talk about what we need to do differently¹¹⁵.

Lead a discussion on ways your ministry can improve your focus on the eight key ingredients for the purpose of helping to make devoted teens.

Close by reminding everyone of your purpose¹¹⁶: to see the teenagers in your church become and remain devoted fully to God. Thank all of the attendees for the integral role they play in your ministry and end in prayer.

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- 1 Slide 1: "What's the point?"
 - 2 Slide 2: "Devoted Teens."
 - 3 Slide 3: "How to Make Devoted Teens."
 - 4 Slide 4: "What defined your generation?"
 - 5 Slide 5: "What defines their generation?"
 - 6 Slide 6: "What do we have in common?"
 - 7 **Video 1: *History of American Teens.***
 - 8 Slide 7: List of generations from the *History of American Teenagers* video.
 - 9 Slide 8: Picture of a scary zombie.
 - 10 Slide 9: Picture of a pack of wolves.
 - 11 Slide 10: Picture of a 70's teen and a modern teenager with an equals sign between them.
 - 12 Slide 11: Picture of a note and a cell phone with an equals sign between them.
 - 13 Slide 12: Picture of a group of teens handing out and the Facebook homepage with an equals sign between them.
 - 14 Slide 13: Picture of Madonna and a picture of Lady Gaga with an equals sign between them.
 - 15 Slide 14: Picture of cars speeding by so fast that they're a blur.
 - 16 Slide 15: Picture of someone who's exhausted.
 - 17 Slide 16: Picture of a stop sign.
 - 18 **Video 2: *Teenager Culture Today.***
 - 19 Slide 17: Picture of a stop sign. Same as Slide 16.
 - 20 Slide 18: "Devoted teens." Same as slide 2.
 - 21 Slide 19: Picture of a street sign that reads "Faith."
 - 22 Slide 20: Picture of a church.
 - 23 Slide 21: Picture of a street sign that reads "Faith." Same as slide 19.
 - 24 Slide 22: "84% of American Teenagers believe in 'God.'"
 - 25 Slide 23: "82% say that religious faith is important in shaping their daily life."
 - 26 Slide 24: "75% of American Teenagers identify themselves as 'Christian.'"
 - 27 Slide 25: Picture of a church. Same as slide 20.
 - 28 Slide 26: Headlined "In the Past 30 Days" and reading "60% of American Teenagers attended a church service."
 - 29 Slide 27: "23% attended a youth group social activity."
 - 30 Slide 28: "20% attended a Sunday School class."
 - 31 Slide 29: "14% attended a small group Bible study."
 - 32 Slide 30: Picture of a carnival.
 - 33 Slide 31: Picture of a ringmaster.
 - 34 Slide 32: Picture of birds migrating.
 - 35 Slide 33: 10 orange symbols for people.
 - 36 Slide 34: 7 of the ten orange people symbols are now blue and text reads "70% Leave the Church Between the Ages of 18-21."
 - 37 Slide 35: "For 65% of Those the Decline Begins at Age 16."
 - 38 Slide 36: Picture of a teen behind the wheel of a car.
 - 39 Slide 37: "'Most teenagers aren't interested in being religiously rebellious and are content to follow in their parents' footsteps with little investment in actually knowing and articulating those beliefs.' – Dr. Christian Smith"
 - 40 Slide 38: "Simply want a break from church."
 - 41 Slide 39: "Church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical."
 - 42 Slide 40: "Moved to college and stopped attending church."
 - 43 Slide 41: "Work responsibilities prevented me from attending."

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- 44 Slide 42: "Moved too far away from the church."
45 Slide 43: "Became too busy."
46 Slide 44: "Didn't feel connected to the people in my church."
47 Slide 45: "Disagreed with the church's stance of political or social issues."
48 Slide 46: "Chose to spend more time with friends outside the church."
49 Slide 47: "Was only going to church to please others."
50 Slide 48: Picture of a church and the words "Big Deal" with an equals sign between them that has a line through it.
51 Slide 49: Devoted teens slide with a big red "x" over it.
52 Slide 50: 10 orange symbols for people. Same as slide 33.
53 Slide 51: 1 lone orange person symbol.
54 Slide 52: "Who are the devoted?"
55 Slide 53: "They attend religious services weekly or more."
56 Slide 54: "Their faith is very or extremely important in daily life."
57 Slide 55: "They feel very or extremely close to God."
58 Slide 56: "They are currently involved in a religious youth group."
59 Slide 57: "They pray a few times a week or more."
60 Slide 58: "They read scripture once or twice a month or more."
61 Slide 59: "How to make devoted teens." Same as slide 3.
62 Slide 60: "How to help make devoted teens." Variation of slide 59.
63 Slide 61: Picture of magic bullet blender with a big red "x" over it.
64 **Video 3: *Developing Devoted Teens.***
65 Slide 62: "7 Key Ingredients."
66 Slide 63: "Ingredient #1: Parents."
67 Slide 64: "Strong Parental Religion."
68 Slide 65: "Religious Socialization."
69 Slide 66: "The Avoidance of Relationship Breakdown."
70 Slide 67: "Ingredient #2: Adults."
71 Slide 68: "Adults at Their Church."
72 Slide 69: "Support."
73 Slide 70: "Advice."
74 Slide 71: "Help."
75 Slide 72: "Heightened Enjoyment of Religious Participation."
76 Slide 73: "Number of Adults vs. Likelihood to Leave Church: None – 89%"
77 Slide 74: "One – 76%"
78 Slide 75: "Two – 68%"
79 Slide 76: "3-4 – 59%"
80 Slide 77: "5-6 – 57%"
81 Slide 78: "7+ - 50%"
82 Slide 79: "Ingredient #3: Prayer."
83 Slide 80: "Personal Prayer."
84 Slide 81: "Religious Belief and Desire Reinforcement."
85 Slide 82: "Conserving Accumulated 'Religious Capital.'"
86 Slide 83: "Drive for Identity Continuity."
87 Slide 84: "Ingredient #4: Scripture."
88 Slide 85: "Reading of Scripture."
89 Slide 86: "Comprehensive View of God and His Work."
90 Slide 87: "Understanding of Belief Structure."
91 Slide 88: "Reason for and Support of Faith."

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- ⁹² Slide 89: "Ingredient #5: Value."
⁹³ Slide 90: "Importance of Religious Faith."
⁹⁴ Slide 91: "Motivation and Drive."
⁹⁵ Slide 92: "Essential Nature."
⁹⁶ Slide 93: "Feeling of Loss in Absence."
⁹⁷ Slide 94: "Ingredient #6: Beliefs."
⁹⁸ Slide 95: "No Doubts About Beliefs."
⁹⁹ Slide 96: "Free to Question."
¹⁰⁰ Slide 97: "Able to Find Answers."
¹⁰¹ Slide 98: "Equipped with Reasoning and Communication Skills."
¹⁰² Slide 99: "Ingredient #7: Experiences."
¹⁰³ Slide 100: "Many Religious Experiences."
¹⁰⁴ Slide 101: "Bringing Philosophy and 'Theory' into Reality."
¹⁰⁵ Slide 102: "Cognitive Resistance to Modern Secular Assumptions."
¹⁰⁶ Slide 103: "Bonus Ingredient #8: Sex."
¹⁰⁷ Slide 104: "Bonus Ingredient #8: Abstinence."
¹⁰⁸ Slide 105: "Sexual Abstinence Until Marriage."
¹⁰⁹ Slide 106: "Cognitive Resistance to Modern Secular Assumptions."
¹¹⁰ Slide 107: "Increased Cognitive Emotional Dissonance with Serious Religious Identity and Practice."
¹¹¹ Slide 108: Picture of a magnifying glass.
¹¹² Slide 109: "How to help make devoted teens." Same as slide 60.
¹¹³ Slide 110: "Key Ingredients: 1. Parents; 2. Adults; 3. Prayer; 4. Scripture; 5. Value; 6. Beliefs; 7. Experiences; 8. Abstinence."
¹¹⁴ Slide 111: "What are we doing right?"
¹¹⁵ Slide 112: "What do we need to do differently?"
¹¹⁶ Slide 113: "Devoted Teens."