

Camps, Conferences, Teaching and Training

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The Troubling Statistics:

How many young people are leaving? We want to be realistic without being alarming. The research shows _____ - _____%

ABC News / Washington Post Religious Affiliation Poll by Langer Research Associates (2018). Based on 174,485 interviews from ABC News and ABC News/Washington Post polls conducted by telephone from 2003 to 2017, the study found:



Young people age 18-29 are increasingly non-religious, at a pace that far exceeds their older counterparts.

From 2003 to 2017, the number of 18-29 year-olds who identify as non-religious has increased _____% (from _____% to _____% of the American population), while the percentage of Americans over the age of 50 who identify as non-religious has only increased _____% (from _____% to _____%).

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (2017). The CIRP Freshmen Survey of first-time students at 184 U.S. colleges and universities collects data on incoming college students' background characteristics. This survey revealed the following key points:



_____ % of incoming freshmen are religiously unaffiliated, a threefold increase since 1986, when just 10 percent identified this way.

Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation - Barna Research Group (2018). Students in this age group offer the following "barriers to faith":



- a. "I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much _____ in the world" (29%)
- b. "Christians are _____" (23%)
- c. "I believe _____ refutes too much of the Bible" (20%)
- d. "I don't believe in _____" (19%)
- e. "There are too many _____ in the history of Christianity" (15%)
- f. "I used to go to church but it's not _____ to me anymore" (12%)
- g. "I had a bad _____ at church with a Christian" (6%)

Millennials and Their Retention Since Confirmation: A Survey of LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) Congregations (2018). Congregations reported that only 1-in-3 of young people who were confirmed between 2004-2006 still worship at an LCMS church today. The study also found that LCMS churches retained young believers at a much higher rate if:



- a. They retain their youth pastor or youth leaders over a _____
- b. Their church leadership was generally _____
- c. Their youth group is _____

Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith by Jana Magruder and Ben Trueblood (2018). In addition, they found that parents who had successfully passed on their faith to their children typically were involved in the following activities:



- a. Reading the Bible several times a week.
- b. Taking part in a _____ as a family.
- c. _____ with unbelievers.
- d. Encouraging teenagers to _____.
- e. Asking forgiveness when they messed up as parents.
- f. Encouraging their children's _____.
- g. Taking annual family vacations.
- h. Attending churches with teaching that emphasized what the Bible says.
- i. Teaching their children to _____.



A Possible Strategy

Whatever Christendom is doing in its effort to teach it's young, the effort appears to lacking. It's time to stop _____ our young people; it's time to start _____ them.

T – _____ (Challenge students to expose their weaknesses)



At some point officers will be tested. At some point students need to be tested too.

Once you know how much you _____ know... You'll know exactly what you need to _____...
 To be the kind of _____ you need to be

One Possible Readiness Review:

- a. Why do you trust what the _____ about Jesus?
- b. Why would God send people to _____ just because they don't believe in Jesus?
- c. If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much _____ in the world?
- d. If God is the creator of everything, who created _____?
- e. Why would a loving God command the total _____ of all of Israel's enemies (including their children and livestock)?

R – _____ (Expect more from students than we sometimes think they can handle)



Aim _____ because you never know who you might hit

A – _____ (Provide students with the truth and teach them how to articulate it)



I _____ vs. I _____

“My Dad was a Southern Baptist Preacher and while I was growing up I basically lived at the church. I knew all of the bible stories and was even baptized when I was eight... After graduating high school, I went to college to get a degree in mechanical engineering. One might think a degree of this kind would involve little to no discussion of whether or not God exists, or if Jesus was a real person, but I encountered these and many more objections...”

“I think of college almost like an _____ ambush”

If you _____ them at home, they’ll be unprotected at university.

If you _____ them at home, they’ll be protected at university.

I – _____ (Deploy students to the battlefield of ideas)



There’s no point in _____ if you never intend on _____

_____ to wrestle ≠ _____ to wrestle

Deployment Examples:

- Take an _____
- Start an _____ Group
- Start a Family “_____” Study
- _____ with Somebody Important
- Start a _____ at Your Church

A calendared _____ turns teaching into training

N – _____ (Develop relationships and model the nature of Jesus)



Both _____ AND _____ can leave you wounded

Born of a virgin, in a cave, on December 25
His birth was attended by shepherds
Considered a great traveling teacher and master
He had twelve companions and promised immortality
He performed miracles and sacrificed himself
He was buried in a tomb and after 3 days rose again
His followers celebrated this (it became "Easter")
He was called the "Good Shepherd," the "Messiah"
His followers celebrated Sunday as his sacred day
His followers celebrated a Eucharist or "Lord's Supper"

Truth is always more impactful when delivered in the context of _____