

when their own plate is empty. Take the time to pamper yourself spiritually. Read the Word for yourself. Prioritize nurturing times of prayer and meditation with the Lord. Study carefully the Word of God and allow the holy Spirit to minister to your soul. Take care of yourself first and then God will work through you to take care of your students.

For each subject taught in the Bible classes:

1. Define the skeptical questions of this age that are leveled against this particular account from the Bible.
2. Teach students how to answer these questions.
3. Find ways we can connect this account with the real world; for example, archeology, biology, anthropology, astronomy, and geology.
4. Explore the practical application that can be made.
5. Ensure students understand historical events as real history, doctrine, etc., from this passage.
6. Explain to students how it all relates to biblical authority and the gospel.
7. Where possible, connect the topic back to Genesis – you may be surprised at how easy this will come to you once you begin to do it. [The author observes that the most relentless attacks on the Bible are leveled at the book of Genesis – *ed.*]

Ken Ham and Britt Beemer. *Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it.* Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009. 147-150.

Some of you may be interested in viewing the TV program, "In Search of the Lord's Way." It is on every Sunday at 7:30 A.M (EST) on DirecTV Channel 364 and Dish Channel 259. It is also on Cox Cable channel 22 at 7 A.M. Bother Mack Lyon & Phil Sanders are the speakers.

Back issues of this publication are posted at
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

21 October 2012

Sermon Topics:

AM: The Parable of the Net

Matt 13:47-52

PM: Stand in Awe of God

Eccl 5:1 ff

Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Lasting Spiritual Growth is Hard Work

from an article at <http://www.barna.org>

A 2006 study by The Barna Group (Ventura, California) shows that despite strong levels of spiritual activity during the teen years, most twentysomethings disengage from active participation in the Christian faith during their young adult years - and often beyond that. In total, six out of ten twentysomethings were involved in a church during their teen years, but have failed to translate that into active spirituality during their early adulthood.

David Kinnaman, the director of the research, pointed out, "There is considerable debate about whether the disengagement of twentysomethings is a lifestage issue - that

is, a predictable element in the progression of people's development as they go through various family, occupational and chronological stages - or whether it is unique to this generation. While there is some truth to both explanations, this debate misses the point, which is that the current state of ministry to twentysomethings is woefully inadequate to address the spiritual needs of millions of young adults. These individuals are making significant life choices and determining the patterns and preferences of their spiritual reality while churches wait, generally in vain, for them to return after college or when the kids come. When and if young adults do return to churches, it is difficult to convince them that a passionate pursuit of Christ is anything more than a nice add-on to their cluttered lifestyle."

Kinnaman offered several insights about the data: "Much of the ministry to teenagers in America needs an overhaul - not because churches fail to attract significant numbers of young people, but because so much of those efforts are not creating a sustainable faith beyond high school. There are certainly effective youth ministries across the country, but the levels of disengagement among twentysomethings suggest that youth ministry fails too often at discipleship and faith formation. A new standard for viable youth ministry should be - not the number of attendees, the sophistication of the events, or the 'cool' factor of the youth group - but whether teens have the commitment, passion and resources to pursue Christ intentionally and whole-heartedly after they leave the youth ministry nest."

The Strategic Leader of The Barna Group explained that, "it's not entirely surprising that deep, lasting spiritual transformation rarely happens among teenagers - it's hard work at any age, let alone with the distractions of youth. And, since teenagers' faith often mirrors the intensity of their parents, youth workers face steep challenges because they are trying to impart something of spiritual signifi-

cance that teenagers generally do not receive from home.

<http://www.barna.org/teens-next-gen-articles/147-most-twentysomethings-put-christianity-on-the-shelf-following-spiritually-active-teen-years>

If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.

19th Century novel by Elizabeth Rundle Charles, called *The Chronicles of the Schoenberg Cotta Family* (Thomas Nelson, 1864).

How to be Better Bible Teachers

Ken Ham

We have to make an honest evaluation of the effectiveness of church education program. What you are doing is not working as it should. It's not getting through and it's not doing the job. We know you are in key positions to make major changes in the lives of our students. You are the M*A*S*H unit on the front lines of this disease. You are the nurses and the doctors that are positioned to counter the epidemic, and you *must* begin to defend the Word with our pupils at a very young age. You must teach them how to defend themselves and the Word of God in a secular world and show them the Bible connects to the real world.

Students are not being taught how to defend their faith, how to answer skeptical questions, how to answer the questions of this age concerning the age of the earth/evolution, etc. We know that many of you are handed pre-made lesson plans. We know that you probably haven't been trained in how to teach apologetics yourselves. We know that many of you may even be harboring doubts of your own. It doesn't have to be that way.

Make your own spiritual life a priority. Far too often, faithful Christian educators are trying to feed their students