

**Youth Culture Lesson**  
**Finding Teachable Moments in Culture**  
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**Falling from Faith?**

Are you as religious as your parents?

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**What Happened:**

Youth just aren't as religious as they used to be. That's the conclusion of a raft of studies completed during the past several years, which find the generation known as "Millennials" doesn't pray, go to church or read the Bible as much as its parents did.

While 65 percent of Millennials—an age range that extends from high school seniors to people in their 20s—say they're Christian, less than half say would agree strongly that God is a "real being"; half say Jesus sinned just like anyone else. Though 70 percent believe heaven is a real place, less than a third believe Jesus is the only way to get there.

Some experts believe these stats indicate the United States is becoming more secular—following the path set by Europe decades before. Others, though, believe the truth is more complex.

Many note that youth historically have left church for a time in their late teens and early 20s, only to return when they get married and have children of their own. Many studies show that youth think faith is still a critical part of their lives.

Pastor Mark Driscoll notes that Millennials simply may be more honest than past generations: Religion no longer holds the cultural sway in society it once did, which means folks polled don't feel as much pressure to claim a faith they don't really believe in.

Source: *USA Today*

Driscoll says there's a third factor at work, too:

"... young people are committed to churches not built for them but built by them. Around the country young people are flocking to churches that have clear authoritative Bible teaching about real life issues, are lead by authentic leaders, include night services, use online social media, embrace technology, serve the poor and suffering, strive for community, encourage creativity, and allow young leaders to lead at the highest levels."

Source: *USA Today*

**Talk About It:**

Would you say that you're very religious? Do most of your friends share the same faith as yours? Do you think faith is more or less important to you than it is for your parents or grandparents?

Lots of people say today that they're "spiritual, not religious." What does that mean? Would you say that describes you?

How important will going to church be for you when you get out of school? Are there things about organized religion that bother you? What do you think church could do better? If you were going to build a church from scratch, what would it look like?

**What the Bible Says:**

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand" (Rom. 5:1-2).

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

"If you will not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Isa. 7:9).