

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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Spiritual Emphasis in Everyday Family Life

Jesus is... the Center

Whenever Israel settled in an area on the way to the Promised Land, God gave specific instructions on how to make camp: the center of camp was reserved for the tabernacle — God was at the center.

That is the way God wanted it then, and that is the way He wants it today. You were designed for the purpose of knowing Jesus Christ and making Him the center of your life. You may ask, "What do you mean, make Jesus the center of my life?" It means you acknowledge Jesus as the ultimate authority in your life and you voluntarily yield the control of your life to Him.

Underline that last statement. Let it sink in. For Jesus to be the center of your life, it means He is in control. You no longer desire to independently run your own life, but you surrender your whole self to Jesus and to following His lead.

He created you, He controls everything and He is faithful — why wouldn't you want Jesus to be the center and controller of your life?

<https://disciplefirst.com/what-does-it-mean-to-make-jesus-the-center-of-my-life/>

Awakening

There was something in the wind. Ruben could feel it. Almost forty years had passed since they had fled Egypt in a hurry. He only knew about this escape from hearsay, as he had been born much later. But his father had told him this story over and over again that he thought he had experienced it himself. Afterwards, the never-ending years of traveling accompanied by sandstorms, scorpions, heat and drought. Ruben was tired of the eternal wandering and longed for a quiet place where he could live in peace with his family. Now his dream seemed to become real. Then this special meeting was called, in which Moses gave the people important spiritual education guidelines for the offspring on their way to the Promised Land.

Moses as a religious educator

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates" Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NIV.

Secular society

Children are like sponges. Much of what they hear and see they assimilate very easily and then they hang on to it as stone. Political parties and ideologies, school and industry are already knocking on the nursery doors, trying to get a foothold on our children. Our offspring are of interest to the market for three reasons: they have their own money, they influence the buying decisions of their parents, and last but not least, they are the customers of tomorrow. Whether cereal, soft drink or sneakers - all vie for the favor and money of the children. And many family discussions revolve around the question of what they can afford and acquire.

With the help of the entertainment industry, opinion makers transport their values into the living rooms. Their life principles often contradict biblical values. Immorality, atheism, gender-madness and materialism daily bombard our biblical worldview and leave behind ugly craters. So divine orders are slowly destroyed.

"It's the everyday life!"

As we know, there is nothing new under the sun. The great controversy is still taking place. Only the intensity of the fight has increased. "But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." Revelation 12: 12b NIV

How can we win our children to God's values, ►

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD



SHINTOISM

This religion exists practically only in Japan. It is older than Buddhism. *Shinto* means "way of the deities". Shintoism has many gods, and to honour them, every village has a sanctuary. Here the ancients are worshiped as well as the emperors who reigned over Japan and the *kamis*, spirits or deities who created the Japanese archipelago.

The centre of the sanctuary is called *hondon*, and here is the "body of god", which can be very simple, like a mirror or a pebble. It means that god is present in every thing, in nature: stones, wind, plants, and animals. During the year, there are several feasts. One of the most important feasts is New Year, during which the *kamis* are worshiped through dances, music and songs. Also, every sanctuary worships its *kami* on a special date. The most known feast is the Feast of Cherry Blossom. It symbolizes hope and rebirth. This feast is celebrated in the sanctuaries and on the holy mountains, like Mount Fuji. For this feast, picnics are organized in the parks. In December, the feast of the night *Chichibu* is celebrated, accompanied by fireworks.

Family traditions are important, and thus are part of the main beliefs. For birth, marriage and death, there are Shinto ceremonies celebrated with the family, friends and neighbours. Prayers are offered in the sanctuary, and before entering, mouth and hands are washed for purification.

From: Brown, A. & Langley, A.: *Les Religions du Monde expliquées aux enfants*. Hachette Livre, France, 1999

which are not as shiny, shrill, and exciting as those of the competition? Significantly, as the mouthpiece of God, Moses pays little attention to the weekly Sabbath service in the speech mentioned above. The children's Sabbath school and religious education certainly play an important role in the religious imprint of the children, but they are not the center of attention of this speech.

Twenty years ago, Bill Clinton's campaign strategists invented a slogan that made history: "It's the economy, stupid." The economic situation as a decisive factor! I would like to change this saying for our topic into: "It's the everyday life, my friend". Family life is crucial for the religious education of our offspring. A truism? Yes, certainly! But unfortunately, it is often overlooked.

At home and on the way

What role does God play in everyday family life, aside from church? How often do I share experiences during dinner in the presence of my children? Am I only excited about my car? Do I tell my son during a car ride enthusiastically about a special promise God has given me that day? Do my children see me in the morning reading my bible or surfing the latest news in the web? Is my offspring experiencing the joy of helping other people? Do I often criticize certain church members in the presence of my family? Do I participate in the programs of my church? Am I loving, fair and just to my children?

Children first listen to what we live and then to what we say. So let's live what we say – not just for the sake of our children.

Labeled door frames

God's principles should become part of our children's thinking ("on your foreheads") and action ("on your hands"). When entering and leaving ("the door frames of your houses and on your gates"), that means during everyday life, they should run across God's guidelines again and again. This is done through role models and active instruction, but can also be supported by rituals and pictorial comparisons.

Some of the following recommendations are

gained from observing families living with God.

The design of the home reveals a lifestyle in the spirit of Jesus. The size of the TV and its location in the apartment may be an indication of the importance and the use of this medium in the family.

There are a number of symbols and external signs that can point to the reality of God in everyday life.

- Cards with bible texts on the mirror, kitchen cupboard, fridge
- Photo calendar with Bible texts on the desk
- Screen saver with bible texts
- Cell phone ring tone with sacred music
- Christian magazines on the toilette
- House blessing in the vestibule
- Biblical tear-off calendar
- Poster with biblical thoughts
- Chalkboard with the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments or a Bible passage about the New Earth
- Prayer together before eating
- Reading a Bible text before dinner
- Beep on the watch or cell phone reminds of God's presence
- Lightening a candle at the beginning of the Sabbath
- Personalized biblical saying cards for guests to take away
- An unoccupied chair at the table indicating Jesus' presence
- Writing a spiritual journal
- Annual celebration of the baptismal day
- Having a card with a Bible text inserted and memorize it
- Considering a flower that God created
- Etc. ♦

Peter Krumpschmid

Austrian Union
former CHM Director



JESUS

wants all of me

God's Smile on Your Face

It's much better to see a smile than a grumpy face. If you agree with this, then you should know that other people think the exact same thing. So if someone smiles at you, smile back.

Many times it is difficult to smile, especially when we're annoyed or sad. However, people were made in God's image. And God isn't grumpy. He always has a smile for you..

"When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God."

Genesis 5:1

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, S.: *Talking with God*. Editorial Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

PRAYER OF MARTA

Dear Jesus,
Do thunderstorms occur when God sneezes?

From: "Caro Gesù, potresti cambiare il sapore agli asparagi?
100 nuove letterine dei bambini a Gesù". Sonzogno Editore, Milano, 2007

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IN SYNERGY

Project (Pre-)Teenager-Time

Have you also observed, that many of our young people leave the church? Many as young as 15 or even 12 years old? Why? The reasons are manifold. Some have their best friends outside the church, others don't know how they can fit in, or they can't find role models helping them to become mature spiritual individuals.

But to become friends with each other it takes more than seeing one another only for two hours during church service on a Sabbath morning.

To give our Teenagers the opportunity to gain deep friendships within the church, to get to know Jesus as their best friend, to grow spiritually and take on responsibility in their church community the children's ministry department, the youth department and the family ministry department together developed a concept to support these goals.

The "Teenager-Time" material focuses on four major aspects:



Time with God

Age appropriate, thought provoking bible topics are studied, discussed, acted out, sung and experienced to get to know our fundamental beliefs and to encourage a decision for a dedicated life with Jesus Christ.

Time in Nature

Multiple outdoor activities and group dynamic games help to experience God in nature and grow closer together as a team.

Time Together

Different creative activities linked to the bible topic, such as coloring stones (David), building torches, (Daniels friends), games and having Sabbath lunch together at different church families homes connect church members and Teenager and approach multiple intelligences.



Time for Others

Projects for the (church-) community, like supporting a Christmas concert with a bell choir performance, reaching out into the community or facilitate other ventures direct the focus on serving and away from self-centeredness.

It is our hope and prayer that this "Teenager Time" initiative and material will give our church members a tool in helping them integrating our young people into the church, so that they will love to support their community with their multiple talents, get a deeper relationship with their redeemer, become role models for others and experience faith as something worth pursuing and joyful.

Austrian Union
Children's, Families, and Youth Ministries



MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES

Using Objects: Still life verse

Supplies:

- a card on which the Bible verse has been attractively written
- an assortment of objects to illustrate the verse
- some plain colored fabrics for the background
- camera (optional)

Instructions:

1. Work together in groups of about four or as a family.
2. Talk together in the group about what the verse means.
3. Arrange a collection of objects (as artistically as possible) that illustrate the verse in some way. Think about what you hope people might learn from looking at the arrangement. What color background or cloth would you use in

your arrangement? Where can you put the card when it's done?

4. View each other's arrangement.
5. Photograph the arrangements if you wish.

Other ideas

- Do this activity while on a picnic or at a camp, inviting groups of people to create their displays from anything they can find.
- Give each group different verses to illustrate centered around a specific theme, or divide a longer passage of scripture into sections.
- Use the photographs of the arrangements to create a calendar that could be sold.



From: Holford K. 100 creative ways 2 learn memory verses. With permission from GC CHM

SPECIAL NEED MINISTRIES

Disability categories: 3. Hearing or visual



Hearing loss can be mild, moderate, or severe. Some children with hearing loss retreat into their own worlds and may also struggle with language development. Learning Scriptures is one way to encourage speech and build a child's self-image.

Train volunteers to be sure that they have a child's attention before speaking. Limiting background noise distractions will also aid children with limited hearing loss. Before volunteers interact with a child, it's important to know whether he or she uses sign language. Parents will gladly share the best way to communicate with their children.

Children who are visually impaired are often gifted

with a heightened sense of awareness that helps them adapt to their surroundings. These children may use corrective glasses or lenses. In many ways, they're emotionally the same as other kids in your class, but they often require a little more time to grasp lessons.

Volunteers may need to adapt portions of the lessons and games into large print, provide magnifiers, or copy sections on a Braille printer.

Teach volunteers to turn visual lessons and games into hands-on experiences. Kids who are blind may need classmate "buddies" to help them with new concepts or activities.

From: Verbal, P. Special Needs Ministry for Children. Group Publishing, Loveland, USA, 2012

Every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious, living example of what they desire them to be. Purity in speech and true Christian courtesy should be constantly practiced. Teach the children and youth to respect themselves, to be true to God, true to principle; teach them to respect and obey the law of God.



The Adventist Home, p. 16

Mr. Peterson on Patrol



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Incredi-Biblical

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him."

Titus 1:16

He was a grumpy old man with a sour look on his face and a suit that smelled like shaving cream. Every week at church he patrolled the halls, ready to pour out his wrath on anyone he thought wasn't behaving properly.

"Stop running!" he shouted at little kids. "Don't you know this is the house of the Lord?"

"That dress is fit for a prostitute, not for a vessel of God," he'd intone if he didn't approve of a woman's outfit.

One Sabbath Mr. Peterson stood by the

door to the sanctuary and refused to let anyone exit during the church service—even if they needed to use the restroom. "You should have gone beforehand. It's time to sit still for worship," he said firmly.

Mr. Peterson thought he was serving God by trying to instill reverence in the congregation. The problem was that he tried to do God's work using the devil's attitude.

Do you know someone who is supposed to be a representative of God, but who is not acting much like God? Sometimes the devil gets church people into a situation where religion is a habit, and their hearts are never really moved by the Holy Spirit.

Don't let these people paint your picture of God. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and make sure you never become one of the grumpy Christians.

Info Splat

Your attitude about life can affect your health. In fact, a study by the University of California showed that actors could influence their immune systems by **PRETENDING** to feel a certain way. Not happy? Smile anyway—it's good for your health!

React now!

How can you be a positive influence on a grumpy Christian?

From: Bockmann, M. et al.: *Elasti-Brain. 365 Devotions to Stretch your Mind and Shape your Faith*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2008

SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



What should I do if my parents aren't fair?

– Girl, 12

I assume we're talking about God-loving, honest, trying-to-do-the-best-they-can parents.

Sometimes moms and dads issue rules or demands that don't seem to make a lot of sense. "That's not fair," you moan, or whimper, or do whatever you do to show frustration.

Here's a little secret that can save you tons of anger and sadness down the road. Don't expect fairness from other people, because they don't see things the way you do. They don't think like you think. What's important to you may not be important to them. When a decision must be made, parents decide based on their values, their fears, their hopes.

Are they being selfish? No. They truly believe they're doing what's best for you. If you think they're being unfair, don't get all hyper and stomp around like a spoiled brat. Get over it, and move on.

When I was young and my mom or dad did something I thought wasn't fair, I determined that when I was an adult, I'd make some mighty big changes in my life. And I did. Some changes worked. Some didn't. And I also learned a lot about my parents any why they'd acted so "unfairly." In most cases, they were right!

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). If your parents

aren't fair, forgive them. Then patiently share your values, hopes, and dreams. Work together to make life more pleasant for all.



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From: Mills, C.: *Secrets from the Treasure Chest. Questions Kids ask about Life*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 1996



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Austrian Union

CHM Leader training in Salzburg

We started this year with a CHM-leader training in Salzburg. From February 23-25, 2018, 25 CHM-leaders from all over Austria came together to think about motivating the people who are in the team of children's Sabbath school of their church, how to grow spiritually and how they can handle challenges with the kids in their churches. The time together and the communication with each other about relevant topics were very valuable and strengthened us for the future work in our ministry.

On Friday evening we talked about the part we play as a role model for our kids in our churches. Only when we have a close relationship with Jesus, when we find time to pray and read in God's Holy Word, when the children can see how we handle difficult

situations with our God, they can realize how valuable a life with Jesus is. All these aspects help them to decide to be a disciple of Jesus.

After a restful night we met each other again for having the sermon on Sabbath. As a part of the Sabbath school, we had a Bible study about the lost son with many suggestions for our work with the children on Sabbath. EUD CHM Director Elsa Cozzi, our special guest, preached about the topic "How to overwhelm the giants in our life". She told us about David and his five stones and how he beat Goliath. We can face our personal giants with courage, trust, preparation, faith and victory.

In the afternoon, after a walk to Mondsee, we played some nice Bible games that brought the group together and taught us possibilities of how to motivate children to

deal with the Bible. Interesting workshops about motivation and leadership were offered by Helmut Roth. The focus of the workshops was pointed to the main question: "What is my heart burning for?" Because only if we talk from one heart to another we can cause an impact on other people.

The topics about communication, atmosphere of grace, culture of appreciation, competence of Leadership and how to have a successful team were part of the workshops.

The weekend was very blessed and helped us to create and tighten friendships. It gave us motivation and new ideas for our work with the children and strengthened us in our role as a CHM-Leader of our church. The training was also an impulse to spend more time with Jesus and helped to renew our relationship with Him.

Prayer4Kids

The program prayer4kids can be a motivator and a reminder for parents, grandparents, teachers, Sabbath School teachers and church members, to pray continually for their own children and for children in their church, for relatives, neighbours and friends.

"Ask and you will receive! Seek and you will find! Knock, and it will be opened unto you! For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will he give him a serpent?

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7,7-11 NKJ)

Praying for children

We only want the best for our children. We provide food, water, toys and sport equipment. We assure them the best education and foster their talents.

However, life does not only compromise earthly existence, it will lead to eternity. The goal is to win heaven and to avoid eternal death. A loving and almighty God wants to be in a community with his creatures forever. Are we preparing our children for this reality? Are we doing our utmost to make our God known to them? Many pressure groups

compete for the attention of our children: parties and ideologies, the economy and sports, fashion and the media – and there is God's antagonist.

Prayer is an opportunity and an effective way given by God, to guide them into his circle of influence.

We want to encourage you, to take up this opportunity for your children!

The program:

1. Ask another person to pray for your children over a time period of 40 days, and commit yourself to adhere to a certain time, by writing it down.
2. Prepare a list of the children you want to pray for and for which requests you will bring to God in prayer. (See prayer requests on the next page.)
3. Take your time every day to pray with the other person, either by (Internet) calling or meeting each other. If this is not possible on some days, you can pray individually on these days.
4. Read the daily provided section from the booklet and share your thoughts on the topics. If you want you can also use different reading materials.
5. Subsequently, you pray for your children and for your prayer requests.
6. Do not tell the children you are praying for about your intent, as this could put pressure on them.
7. Expect great things from God – count on the power of the Holy Spirit!
8. Share your experience with others!



40 Tage für Kinder beten

prayer4kids

Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2018



October 5-8

CHM Training Course
Vallegrande, **Italy**

October 18-21

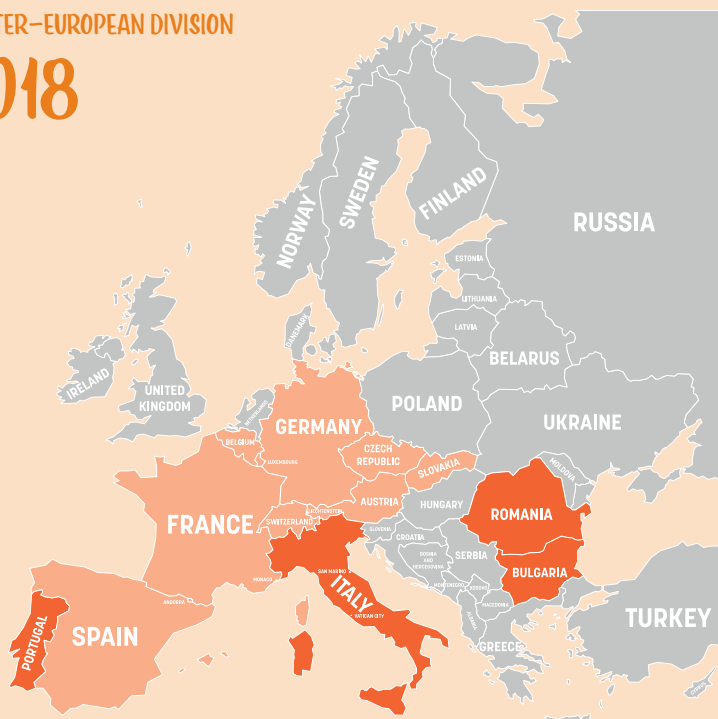
Special Needs Ministries Congress
Bucharest, **Romania**

November 8-11

CHM/ChSS Training Course
Sofia, **Bulgaria**

November 16-18

CHM/ChSS Training Course
Lisbon, **Portugal**



SAVE THE DATE!

2019

INTERMINISTRIES SUMMIT

Children's Ministries • Family Ministries • Women's Ministries

PEOPLE 7.0

Forward together



SAVE THE DATE

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**18-22
SEPTEMBER
2019**

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

More information: info@people7.zero • [+41] 31 359 15 55

Very
important event for
all people involved in CHM /
FM / WM – and others.
Write it already on your agenda
for 2019!



LIGNANO SABBIAORO

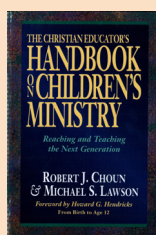


Ten ways to involve children in your church's welcome and blessings

1. Train children as part of your church's welcoming team. They are often very good at smiling and greeting people and they can easily give out bulletins and Bibles.
2. Children on the welcoming team can greet the older children who come to church. Children may prefer to be welcomed by other children, and they can be given their own children's bulletin or sermon-related worksheet to encourage them to listen to the morning's message. They can also be offered a children's Bible to use during the service. Perhaps your church could purchase a set of colorful and interesting Bibles that have been especially designed for children.
3. Trained children can be a part of the welcoming team at the opening of the divine service, and invite the church to enter a spirit of worship. They can work with a mentor to write out their words and practice them so that their welcome message is appropriate and clear.
4. Children can welcome visitors by giving them a small gift such as bookmarks or a flower.
5. Every child can be paired with a senior member of the church and be given the responsibility of welcoming their 'adopted' grand-parent to church each week, in a personal way. This can be done informally in the time between the services, or the child and older person can meet briefly after the service. It is best practice when a parent or guardian looks out for their own children to make sure they are safe when relating to other church members.
6. Children can help your church deaconesses distribute the flowers from the Sabbath arrangements to those in your congregation who will be blessed by them.
7. If your church serves drinks and snacks after a service, two children a week could be involved in helping to pour drinks and collect cups or tidy away afterwards.
8. Station a trained older child by the church doors to say goodbye to the children leaving after the service, and to say something encouraging and appreciative to each child.
9. Think about how your church manages the benedictions and blessings at the end of the service. Try different ways of involving the children in these times. Adults can stand and hold hands in a circle around the children as they are blessed, or lay hands on them.
10. Children can receive a special short prayer of blessing during the communion service. As the adults are being served the children can wait in line to be blessed by a person who is good at communicating with children. Encourage the person to give each child a different and personal blessing.

From: Holford, K.: *Altogether Wonderful. Exploring Intergenerational Worship*. With permission from GC CHM

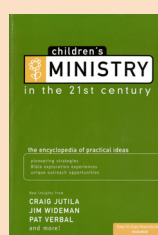
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Robert J. Choun & Michael S. Lawson

Ministering to children is one of the most important tasks of the body of Christ. This comprehensive A-Z reference book is packed with information to help Christian educators understand and minister to children up to age twelve. After exploring the biblical and historical perspectives on why the church is called to minister to children, the authors provide specific suggestions for developing primary goals and objectives for children's programs.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Group Publishing

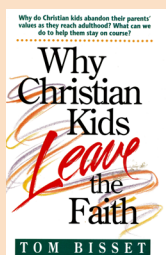
Get ready for what's coming next in Children's Ministry: Ten front-line Children's Ministry experts peeked out over the horizon to identify ten trends shaping ministry in the next ten years. See inside to discover how current culture is rewiring kids' brains – and secrets for connecting with children; the latest education trends embraced by schools – and how they'll impact your Sunday school; Morphing Children's Ministry into Family Ministry – and how that supersedes your impact; what kinds of children are about to land in your ministry – and how to be ready for them; and more.



WHEN YOUR CHILD TURNS FROM GOD

Dorothy M. Watts

Have you felt as if your heart were breaking as you watched your child become involved in a non-Christian lifestyle? Or wept as your child, raised to love God, now laughs at your faith and mocks God's word? You are not alone. This book is for you. It shares the stories of more than 65 prodigals and their parents who prayed for them unceasingly. In some stories the prodigals return, while in others they are still in the far country. You'll see how other parents coped with their hurt, what practical steps they took to restore relationships, and how they learned to pray with power.



WHY CHRISTIAN KIDS LEAVE THE FAITH

Tom Bisset

The author has talked with those who have left. With openness and honesty, he gets to the heart of the issue by asking: Why did you leave? Was there anything anyone could have done or said that might have made a difference in your decision? Yet this is not just a "why did they drop out" book. With sensitivity, the author explores the four basic reasons for faith rejection, and what you can do to help someone who is struggling with these issues. And perhaps most important, you'll find insight and practical advice for communicating the Christian faith to the next generation.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

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