



DON'T ALL VCS FAMILIES ATTEND CHURCH?

I thought this was a Christian school?!

Barna

STATE OF THE CHURCH

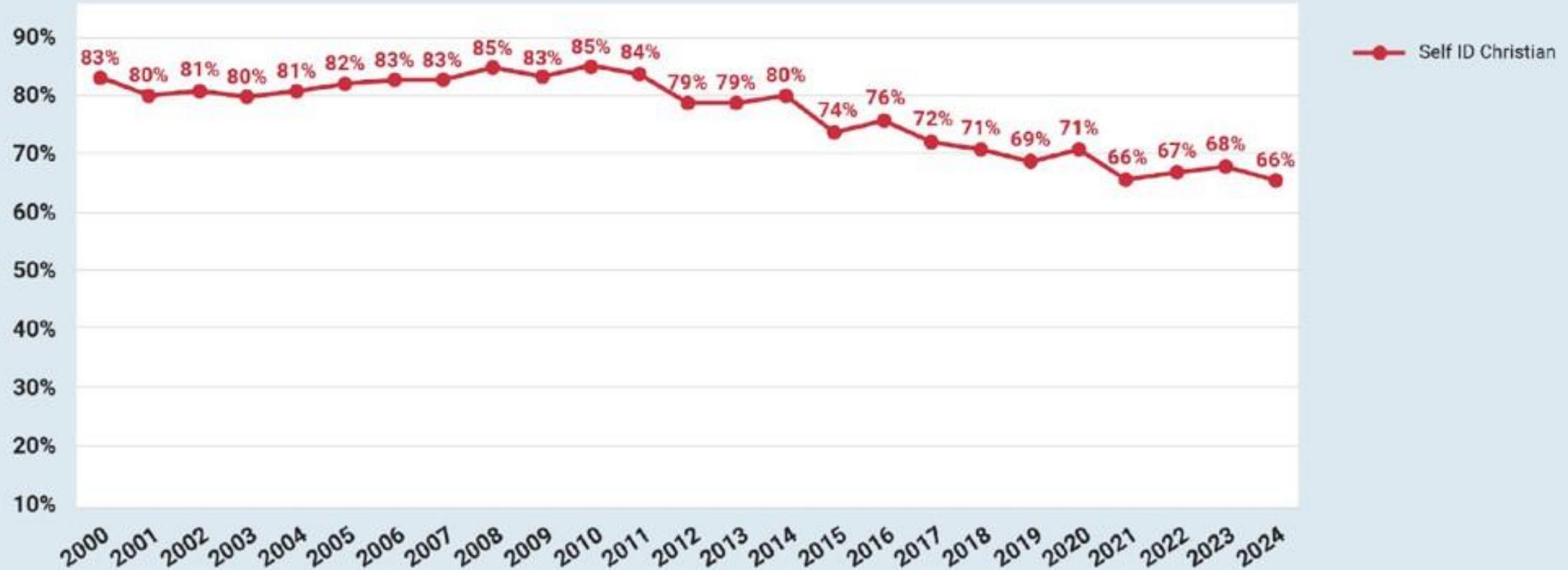
gloo

1

Americans are slowly edging away from Christianity.

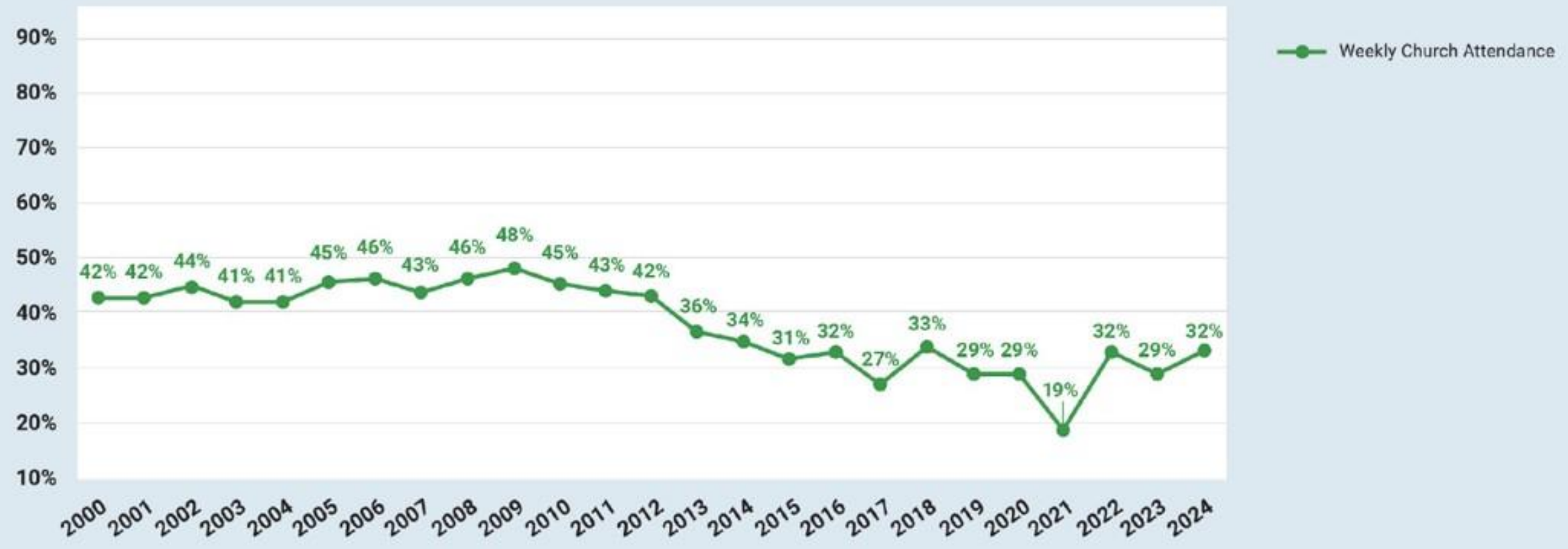
Christian Identity is on the decline...

% of U.S. Adults that Identify as Christian



...as is weekly church attendance ...

% of U.S. Adults Who Attend Church Weekly



...and so is the importance of religious faith .

% of U.S. Adults who agree strongly that "My religious faith is very important in my life today."



2

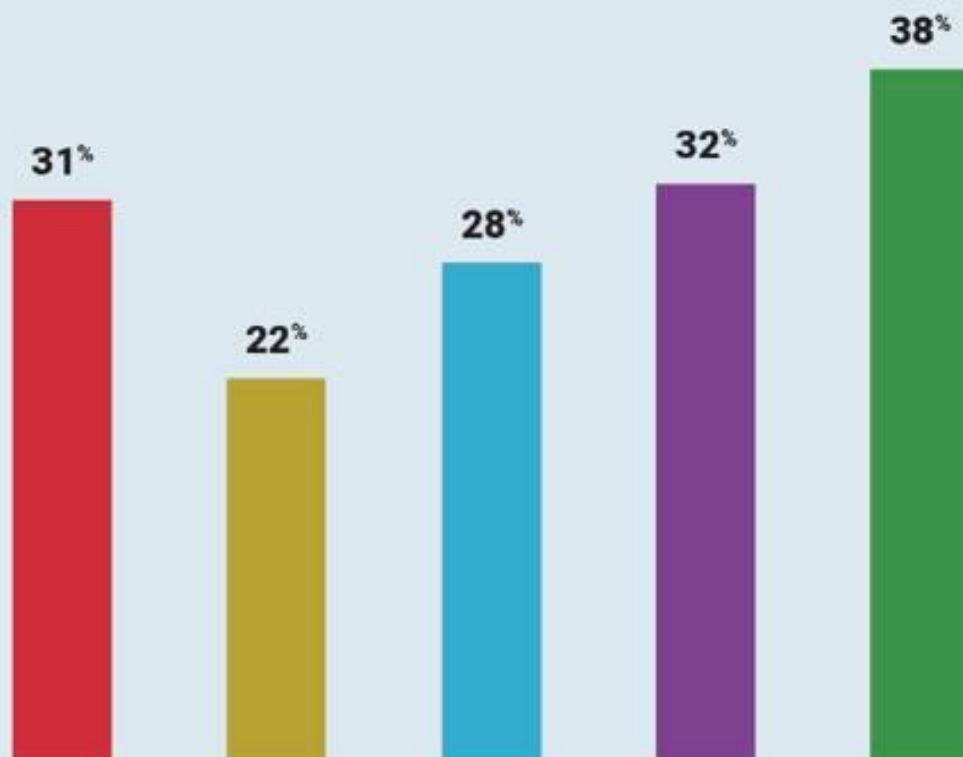
Young women

are increasingly and surprisingly churchless and unaffiliated.

Female Young Adults Lead Among Gen Z “Nones”

% identify with no faith

- All Gen Z
- Male Gen Z ages 13–17
- Female Gen Z ages 13–17
- Male Gen Z ages 18–24
- Female Gen Z ages 18–24



3

Rising spiritual openness

especially among young people

Rising Spiritual Hunger

I am more open to God today than I was before the pandemic...



Barna

STATE OF THE CHURCH

gloo

30
%



Weekly Church Attendance

35%



No Religious Preference

23%



Religious "Nones"

BIBLICAL ILLITERACY & THEOLOGICAL DEFICIENCY

PSALM 22:14

14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
16 For dogs encompass me,
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
17 I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
18 they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
19 But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
20 Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued² me from the horns of the wild oxen!
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
26 The afflicted shall say and be satisfied

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before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
30 Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

The Lord Is My Shepherd

23 A PSALM OF DAVID.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.³
He restores my soul.
3 He leads me in paths of righteousness⁴ for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,⁵ I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely⁷ goodness and mercy⁸ shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell⁹ in the house of the LORD
forever.¹⁰

The King of Glory

A PSALM OF DAVID

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PSALM 26:7

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.¹ *Selah*
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory! *Selah*
Teach Me Your Paths
25 Or Dawn
To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust,
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation,
for you I wait all the day long.
Remember your mercy, O LORD,
and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth or
my transgressions.

For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
12 Who is the man who fears the LORD?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
13 His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
14 The friendship¹ of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
16 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged,
bring me out of my distresses.
18 Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
19 Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
22 Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.
I Will Bless the LORD
26 Or Dawn
Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD

“We found very few teens from any religious background who are able to articulate well their religious beliefs and explain how those beliefs connect to the rest of their lives.”

- Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*

“The absolute best thing you can do for a Christian teen is help them grow confident in the trustworthiness of Scripture.”

- Mike Nappa, *The Jesus Survey*

62%



Having Faith Matters More Than Which
Faith

52%



Humanity is "basically
good"

“I believe that humans are inherently good

“I firmly believe that people are born good and through the trials of life their humanity is tested to shape values, morals and overall behavior.”

“I think the evidence shows we're born with a mix of both goodness and selfishness.”

“I think most people want to do good, but life circumstances and mental health can affect their choices.”

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- Romans 3:23, NASB

“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips...” - Isaiah 6:5a, NASB

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.” - Psalm 51:5, NASB



HOPE

REASONS STUDENTS GROW IN FAITH



ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



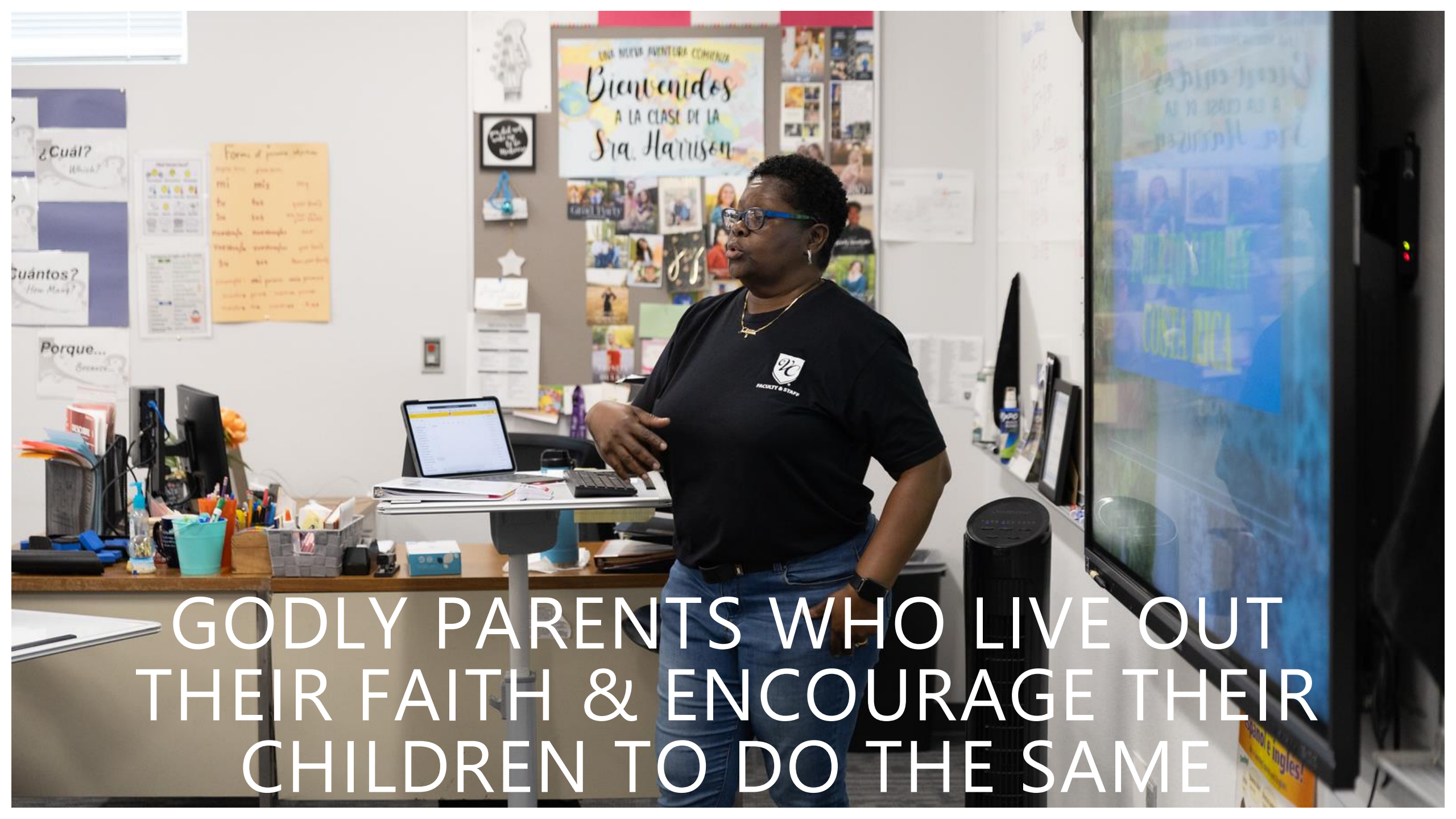
“I went twice every Sunday. It was morning and then our youth group met every Sunday night. All through high school I was there...Every week.” – Participant 2

“Yeah. There is never a time where it was like, “Oh, we just won’t go today.” We would just always go.”
– Participant 9

“I went every Sunday morning with my family and then every Wednesday night I went to small groups.”
– Participant 18

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP GOD & SERVE OTHERS





GODLY PARENTS WHO LIVE OUT
THEIR FAITH & ENCOURAGE THEIR
CHILDREN TO DO THE SAME

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

“One of the premier experts on parenting, Dr. Leonard Sax brilliantly articulates the problems parents experience with their children, then gives solutions. . . . If you have time to read only one book this year, *read this one.*”

—MEG MEEKER, MD, bestselling author of
Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters and *Strong Mothers, Strong Sons*

THE COLLAPSE OF PARENTING

FULLY
REVISED &
UPDATED

LEONARD SAX,
MD, PhD

HOW WE HURT OUR KIDS WHEN
WE TREAT THEM LIKE GROWN-UPS

ENCULTURATION

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

"Listen, my son, to a **father's instructions**"

"My son, do not forget **my teaching**"

"My son, pay attention **to what I say**"

"My son, keep your **father's commands**"

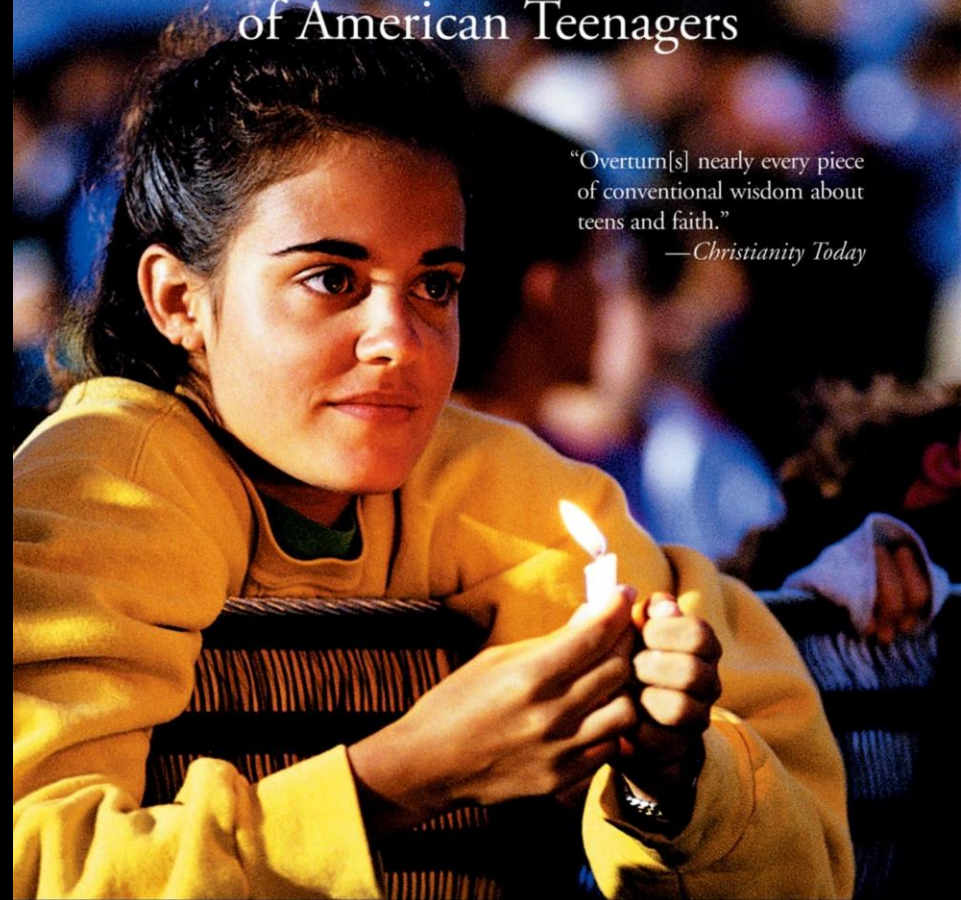
"Listen to **your father who fathered you**"

- Prov 1:8; 4:1, 20; 6:20; 23:22

Parental influence is
“the single most
important social
influence on the
religious and spiritual
lives of adolescents.”

SOUL SEARCHING

The Religious and Spiritual Lives
of American Teenagers



“Overturn[s] nearly every piece
of conventional wisdom about
teens and faith.”

—*Christianity Today*

Christian Smith
with Melinda Lundquist Denton



FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

The mission of Valley Christian Schools is to equip students to be culture changers for Christ...



In order to equip, I must be equipped



In order to equip, I must grow in my faith



In order to equip, I must model a life of learning