**Why Kids Walk Away and What to Do About It**

Up to 70% of young adults raised in church drift away from their faith after graduation. What can we learn from the 30% who stay? Dr. Myers shares three observations to show how churches—and families—can create an atmosphere in which the faith of Millennials can remain vibrant and strong.

**Dr. Jeff Myers** is president of Summit Ministries. As an educator and entrepreneur, Dr. Myers has become one of America’s most respected authorities on youth leadership development. Focus on the Family founder James Dobson referred to him as “a very gifted and inspirational leader.” Evangelist Josh McDowell called him “a man who is 100% sold out to preparing the next generation to reflect the character of Christ in the culture.” Through his speaking engagements and media appearances Dr. Myers has become a fresh voice offering humor and insight from a Christian worldview. He is the author of 14 books, including *Understanding the Faith, Understanding the Times,* and *Understanding the* *Culture* textbooks which are studied by tens of thousands of students. Dr. Myers holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Denver. He continues to engage college students and adult learners by serving as a trustee of Colorado Christian University and through a Signature Leadership Course offered by Pearson Education. Jeff and his wife Stephanie and their family live in Colorado.

1. **Why they leave**

Kids that walk away from faith either haven’t been taught a biblical worldview, did not have someone invest in their personal life of faith, and therefore have stopped going to church.

Only 9% of Americans possess a biblical worldview.

Only 19% of self-professed born-again Christians possess a biblical worldview.

But 81% of Summit graduates possess a biblical worldview! Our graduates are nine times as likely as the average American to claim a biblical worldview, and four times as likely as the average born-again adult.

When comparing twentysomethings who remained active in their faith beyond high school and twentysomethings who dropped out of church, a Barna study discovered that those who stay were twice as likely to have a close personal friendship with an adult inside the church. Those who had an intentional mentor at church were two and a half times as likely to stay active as those who did not.

1. **Why they stay**
2. Strong Convictions Based on a Biblical Worldview
3. Caring Mentors Who Demonstrate How to Live Out a Christian Worldview
4. A Vibrant Community That Lives Consistently with an Authentic Christian Worldview

**List of Additional Readings:**

*Understanding the Times* <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Featured-Products/Understanding-the-Times.html>

*Understanding the Faith* <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Curriculum-Homeschool-Understanding-the-Times-Series/Understanding-the-Faith-Student-Manual.html>

*Understanding the Culture* <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Curriculum-Homeschool-Understanding-the-Times-Series/Understanding-the-Culture-Student-Manual.html>

*Building on the Rock* elementary curriculum <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/?search=building%20on%20the%20rock>

*Walking in Truth* 6th grade curriculum <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Curriculum-Homeschool-Lightbearers/Walking-in-Truth-Grade-6-Teaching-Package.html>

*Cultivate: Forming the Emerging Generation through Life-on-life Mentoring* <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Summit-Faculty-Jeff-Myers/Cultivate.html>

*Abandoned Faith:* *Why Millennials Are Walking Away and How You Can Lead Them Home*  <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Books/Abandoned-Faith.html>

**Resources:**

[summit.org/programs/student-conferences/](https://www.summit.org/programs/student-conferences/) Summit students are challenged to articulate biblical truth and discern false worldviews which impact culture. They are encouraged to think deeper about their personal faith and convictions as they learn about life and identity, leadership, and many more relevant issues.

[summit.org/programs/summit-semester/](https://www.summit.org/programs/summit-semester/) Summit Semester trains students to live well by worshipping God with their head, heart, and hands. Students escape the virtual world and enter into authentic relationships in a rustic mountain retreat setting for three months.

[axis.org/](https://axis.org/) Axis is your partner and guide to deepening your relationship with your kid by having an ongoing conversation aimed at leading them into a lifelong faith in Jesus.

[focusonthefamily.com/shows/broadcast/](https://www.focusonthefamily.com/shows/broadcast/) The Focus on the Family parenting channel provides daily encouragement that helps families thrive.