

Teens want what they think fame brings

February 2007



Popular culture gives teens the idea that fame is more important than anything else.

It is no surprise that we live in a culture that glorifies the rich and famous. We have become obsessed with breakups and breakdowns of the stars through magazines, Internet, television, and all the other venues. If you don't think this is an issue with teens, think about this question Jake Halpern asked to over 650 teens in his book called "Fame Junkies": "Given a choice of becoming the CEO of a major corporation, the president of Yale or Harvard, a Navy SEAL, a U.S. senator or "the personal assistant to a very famous singer or movie star," almost half of the girls — 43.4% — chose the assistant role" (jakehalpern.com).

You might think this is absurd, but for many teens this is reality. Teens want what they think fame brings, and that is the Three A's: affluence, attractiveness, and achievement. The picture painted by our culture shows that the more of the Three A's you have, the better your life will be. God reminds us in Luke 14 that we have our priorities all wrong. Jesus tells a story of someone being invited to a wedding feast. He reminds us not to take the place of honor because someone more distinguished could show up. Then, He says in Luke 14:11, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Helping teens see the value of exalting Christ instead of themselves is where true success and fame can be found. As we lift Him up, our priorities shift to Him and to others. The most famous in God's eyes are the one's who love, serve, and give when no one else is looking.

SURGE!

Parents! You are incredible! We are so thankful that you allow us to come alongside of you as you disciple your students. We have said that frequently since we've gotten here, but as some parents have expressed, "Jason, I want to, but I don't know how." We are here to help!

S.U.R.G.E.

S.U.R.G.E. stands for Spiritual Understanding Revolutionizing the lives of families, helping them to Grow and Emerge to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus.

How does it work?

We will be passing out SURGE journals February 4th in Common Ground and explaining the program, the journals will be available everyday after that. Each level is self explanatory. They will have 4 key components that believers need to develop.

1. Know the Word—Verses to memorize.
2. Knowledge—Understanding the Bible deeply.
3. Habits—Developing Spiritual Habits.
4. Fight Journals—Quiet Time development devotionals

They will be memorizing verses, learning

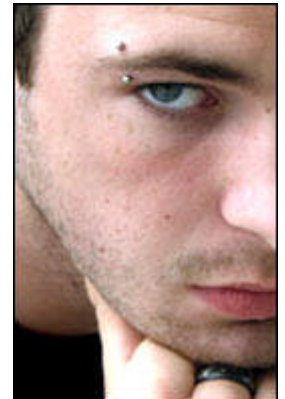


Pulse

Usaweekend.com asked teens some very interesting questions about famous people. Here is what they found:

Which quality matters most to you in a celebrity? (Pick one)

- 36% Talent
- 32% Personality
- 17% Character
- 15% Looks



Do you agree with this statement: When celebrities make the following choices, a lot of teens want to do the same.

- 77% - Lose weight
- 62% - Pierce a body part
- 58% - Get a tattoo
- 48% - Drink alcohol
- 47% - Smoke cigarettes
- 39% - Take drugs

about God's Word, developing into more
mature believers,

The Parent POV

(point of view)

It's amazing how many teens (and adults) are mesmerized by the thought of being famous. See what your teen thinks about some of these questions.

1. Who is your favorite famous person? What do you like about them?
2. If you could be friends with any famous person, who would it be? Why would you want to be friends with them? Do you think they would be a good friend?
3. Why do you think we are so obsessed with famous people and their mistakes?
4. Do you think fame comes at a price? What are some of the advantages/disadvantages of fame? Would you be willing to pay that price to be famous?
5. Can you name any celebrities who are famous and live for Christ? Why aren't there that many?



Focus on Prayer

Pray that:

1. Your teen will have the desire to store up treasures in heaven instead of trying to store up treasures here on earth.
2. God will continue to use your teen for His glory and for His fame.
3. Your teen will find their importance in Christ, instead of how the world tells them to find their worth.
4. God will help your teen pursue the things of God, to find satisfaction in Him and only Him.

SURGE (cont'd)

and learning how to feed themselves spiritually.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!

Many of the senior saints have volunteered to sponsor SURGE. This means as your student completes levels they get cash in their summer accounts. You can check the breakdown on emergestudentministry.org As your student completes various parts of their Surge Levels they will take it to their Common Ground (Sunday Am Bible Study) small group leader for accountability. This doesn't mean that the small group leader is the main person to hold your student accountable.

YOU ARE

Do these SURGE Levels with your students. Work through the levels yourself; use them for family devos, whatever. Encourage them (hey FORCE them even) The only way this works is if you are onboard and you are encouraging SURGE in your home. We will encourage them as well, but YOU ARE THE KEY! According to a recent Barna study parents are the #1 influence in the lives of their students. You Are Important! That's encouraging and scary.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jason

For more info: www.emergestudentministry.org



Did you know...

* When given an option to become stronger, smarter, famous, or better looking, boys in a survey chose fame almost as often as intelligence, and girls chose it more often. (usatoday.com)

* 31% of American teenagers believe they'll become famous one day. (psychologytoday.com)

* Students were asked to choose which famous person they would most like to have dinner with. The top three choices went to Paris Hilton and 50 Cent (both at 15.8%), who tied for third place. Second place went to Jesus Christ (16.8%) and the winner was Jennifer Lopez (17.4%). (jakehalpern.com)

* Teens who described themselves as often or always "depressed" were more likely than others to believe that becoming a celebrity would make them happier. Teenagers who described themselves as feeling "lonely" were also more likely to believe that fame would make a positive impact on their lives. (jakehalpern.com)



Music alternative

This Grammy Award winning artist, tobyMac, was a part of the much successful dctalk. He began his solo career in 2001 with the Grammy nominated Momentum. His most recent album, "Diverse City", is "an album bursting with musical flavors and nuances and yet this stylistic blend finds unity through faith as it's threaded through a melding urban rock and hip-hop frame." Despite receiving numerous awards and much notoriety, tobyMac's mission remains the same. He states, "My new album invites people to ponder how they relate to each other and to God and how He relates to them." tobymac.com

trends

It's finally here parents...the iphone has arrived! For \$499.00 (4 GB) or \$599.00 (8 GB), you can have a revolutionary mobile phone, a wide screen iPod with touch controls, and a breakthrough Internet communications device, in one small and lightweight handheld device. Business Week is saying that Apple could sell over 5 million phones in 2007. For information about the iphone (your teen has probably already looked), go to www.apple.com/iphone.

musicspotlight



Albums:

"Future Sex/Love Sounds" - 9/2006

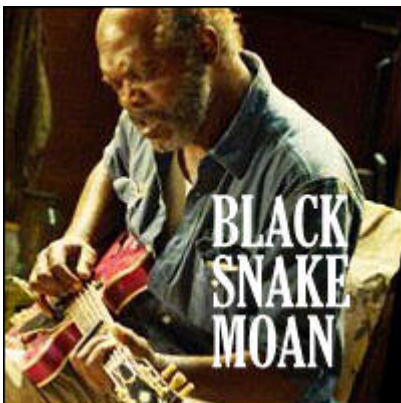
"Maximum Justin Timberlake" - 10/2003

"Justified" - 11/2002

Background: Justin Timberlake has played a major role in the teen pop explosion of the 90's and 2000's. He first got his start, like many other modern pop stars, on the 90's version of the Mickey Mouse Club. His career took off, however, with NSYNC in 1996. Timberlake went solo in 2002 with the release of "Justified". The album reached number 2 on Billboard 200 and landed him two Grammy Awards. His most recent album released in 2006. He has also been trying his hand at acting as seen in his recent big screen releases, Alpha Dog and Black Snake Moan. (vh1.com)

What parents should know: His most recent album contains a parental advisory. Though there is a "clean" version, the album is full of sexual content, suggestive and foul language.

Parent/Teen Q&A: Why do you think some artists who start out clean, change their image and their music to contain harsher or even dirty topics and language? Does it change your perception of them at all?



filmwatch

The month of February has a comic book hero and a popular television show competing for the number one spot. Take the time to be informed!

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
Ghost Rider	PG-13	For horror, violence, and disturbing images	Action/Adventure	Nicolas Cage, Wes Bentley, Eva Mendes
Black Snake Moan	R	For sexual content, language, some violence, and drug use	Drama	Samuel L. Jackson, Christina Ricci, Justin Timberlake
Reno 911: Miami	R	For sexual conduct, nudity, crude humor, language, and drug use	Comedy	Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon

FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Common Ground Bible Study Time: 9am-10:30am Worship Service 10:30am-12pm EMERGE Super Bowl Party Time: 5pm-End of Half-time Where: Youth Room Who: Everybody Cost: \$5 a person, \$1 off for each friend you bring, and your friend gets \$1 off .	5	6	7 Student Worship Time: 6:30 - 8PM Place: Youth Hall	8	9	10
11 Common Ground Bible Study Time: 9am-10:30am Worship Service 10:30am-12pm	12	13	14 Student Worship Time: 6:30 - 8PM Place: Youth Hall	15	16	17
18 Common Ground Bible Study Time: 9am-10:30am Worship Service 10:30am-12pm	19	20	21 Student Worship Time: 6:30 - 8PM Place: Youth Hall	22	23 Leave for Clarity Conference When: Feb. 23-24 Cost: \$39 + Food	24 Return from Clarity Conference
25 Common Ground Bible Study Time: 9am-10:30am Worship Service 10:30am-12pm	26	27	28 Student Worship Time: 6:30 - 8PM Place: Youth Hall			

Upcoming Events ~ More Information

EMERGE Night Super Bowl Party - This Super Bowl Party is also our Emerge Night, half time will be devoted to worship and evangelism. We want as many people to be there, so bring your kids and their friends.

Clarity Conference - Clarity is going to be here in Houston at Champions Forest Church. The theme of Clarity has been "To Know The Word" and how to teach students how to do just that. Leeland will be putting on another concert for us as well.