



South Africa

SUMMARY

Teens in South Africa have become a more integral part of the Global Village. This progress forward has come with its own unique challenges. The dramatic rise in internet connectivity and social media platforms has in many ways led teens to become more confused about their identity, culture, and sexuality. They are asking questions related to marriage and morality, but are then looking to social media platforms for their answers. Thus the cycle of confusion continues.

Although teenagers in South Africa are open to going to church, they are not necessarily trusting in religious leaders' input. They are far more trusting of input from their peers and friends, while still valuing the influence of their family. This raises the question of who is truly influencing South Africa's next generation? Furthermore, how relevant is the Church's presentation of the Gospel to this emerging generation? Are our church and family structures equipped to reach teenagers at home and on digital platforms?

Let's face it, our teens are asking difficult questions to which the older generation can't always relate. But it's time we start trying to understand. If we as parents, mentors, and church leaders don't offer relevant answers, someone else will. As it was once said, **"If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to."**



GLOBAL
YOUTH CULTURE

ABOUT THE GLOBAL STUDY



8,394 TEENS
SURVEYED



20
COUNTRIES



14
LANGUAGES

ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICA DATA



420 TEENS
SURVEYED

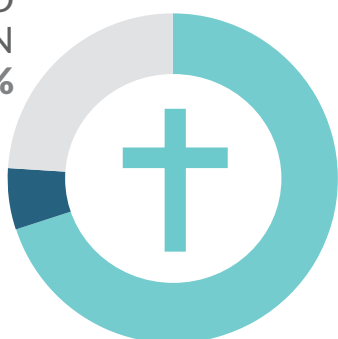


72 QUESTION
SURVEY

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

OTHER OR NO
RELIGION
25%

MUSLIM
6%



CHRISTIAN
70%

**Note that 20% of
teens identified as
Catholic.*

**17% of teens in South
Africa were discovered to
be Committed Christians.**

6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

- Believe God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him

- Pray at least weekly

- Read Scripture on their own at least weekly



- Believe Jesus is the Son of God

- Believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ

- Believe the Bible is the Word of God

** Note that these teens self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witness or Mormon. Committed Christians may be Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Orthodox, or a number of other denominations. Any teen who did not display one or more of these six traits was considered to be a nominal Christian.*

Religious Attitudes and Behaviors

"My faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of my identity."

South African teens' responses:



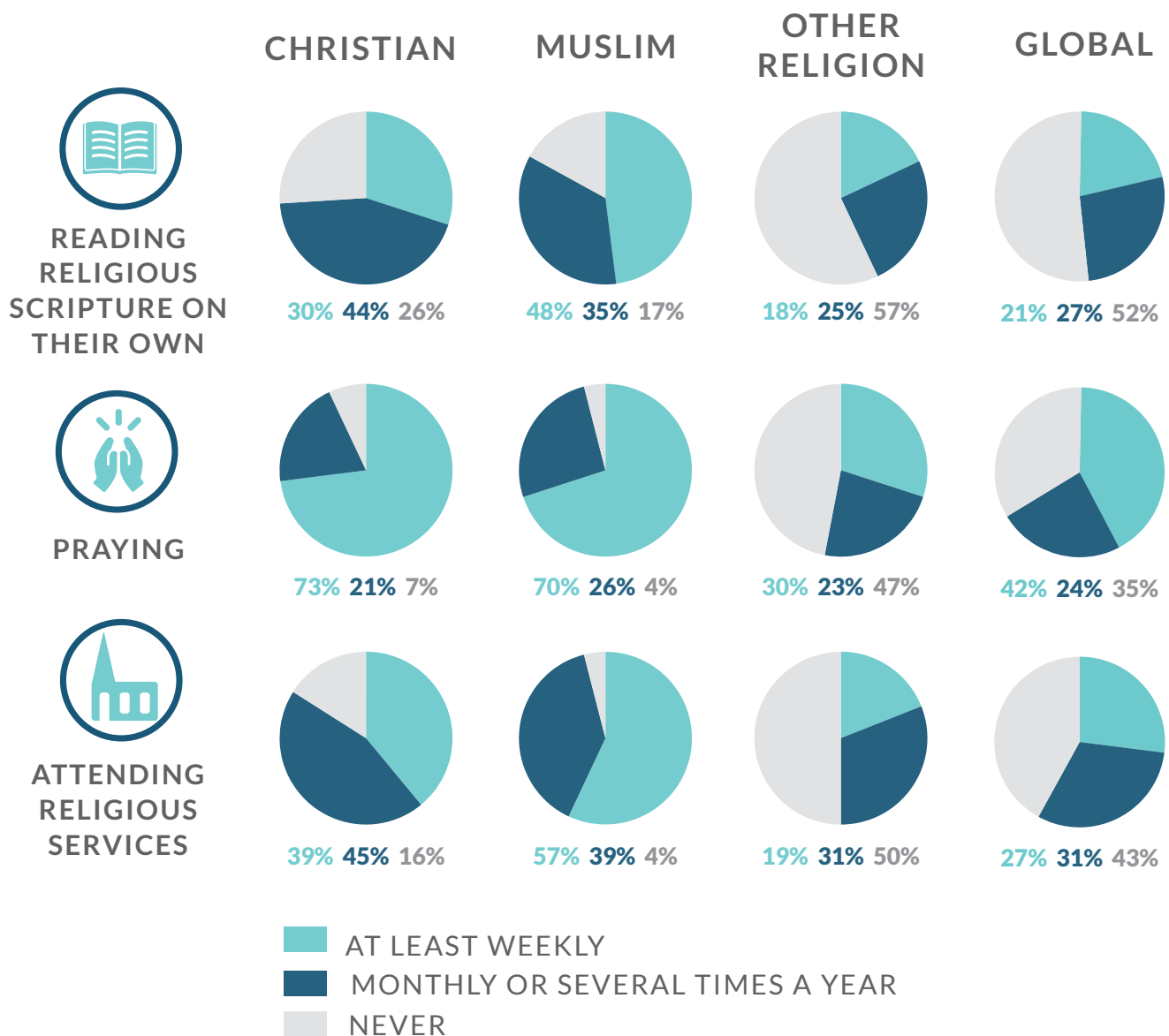
AGREE



DISAGREE



RELIGIOUS HABITS

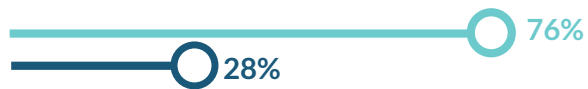


CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS HABITS

COMMITTED CHRISTIAN
NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Attending church at least weekly



Sharing their faith at least monthly



ALMOST HALF OF TEENS IN SOUTH AFRICA BELIEVE ALL RELIGIONS TEACH EQUALLY VALID TRUTHS.

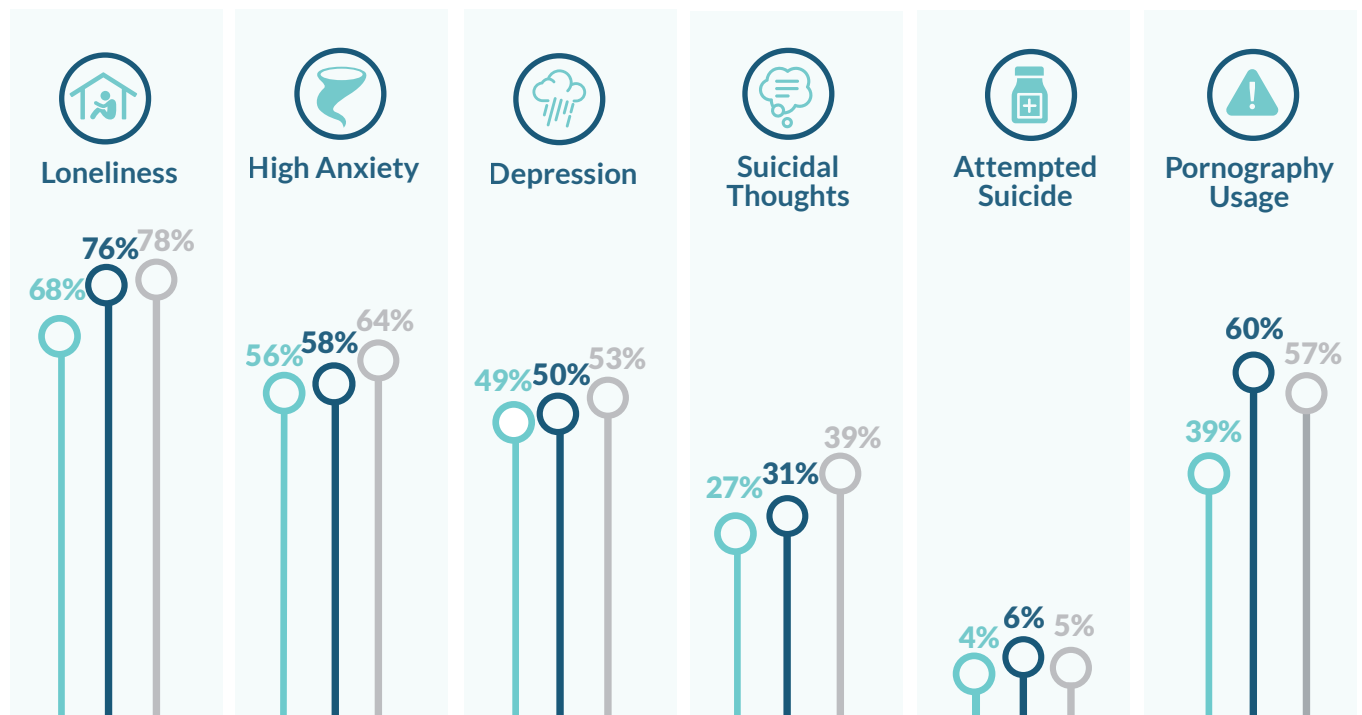
CHRISTIAN NON-CHRISTIAN

"I believe all religions teach equally valid truths"



Personal Struggles and Experiences

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS NOMINAL CHRISTIAN NON-CHRISTIAN



GENDER AND SEXUALITY

COMMITTED CHRISTIAN
NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Felt sexually attracted to someone of the same gender recently



All South African Teens 18%

Experienced gender identity confusion recently



All South African Teens 6%

Been sexually active recently (excluding married)



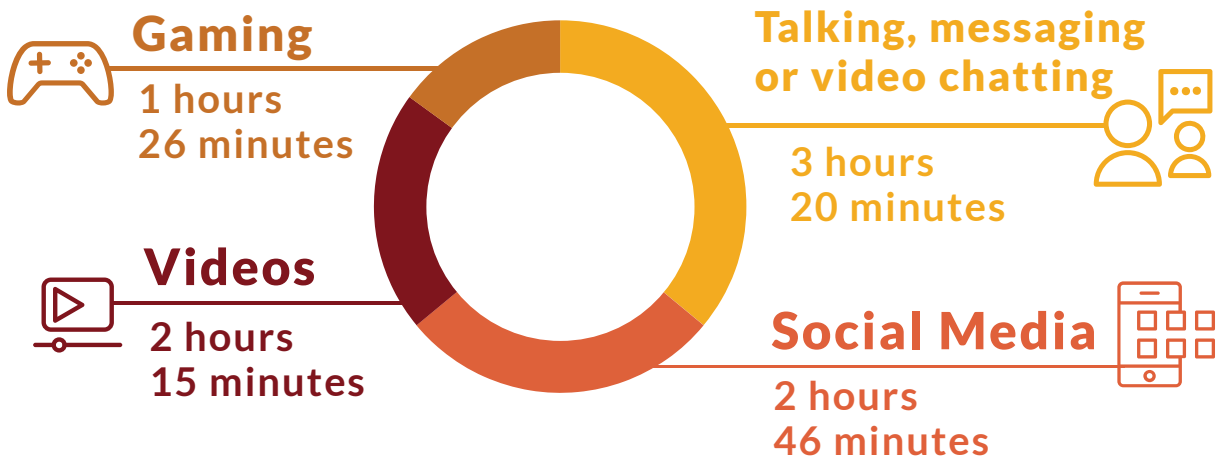
All South African Teens 38%

Digital Connectedness and Impact



South African teens spend an average of **7 hours and 22 minutes online every day**, compared to 7 hours and 23 minutes among teens surveyed globally.

DAILY ONLINE ACTIVITIES



Identity and Relationships

South African teens' responses:

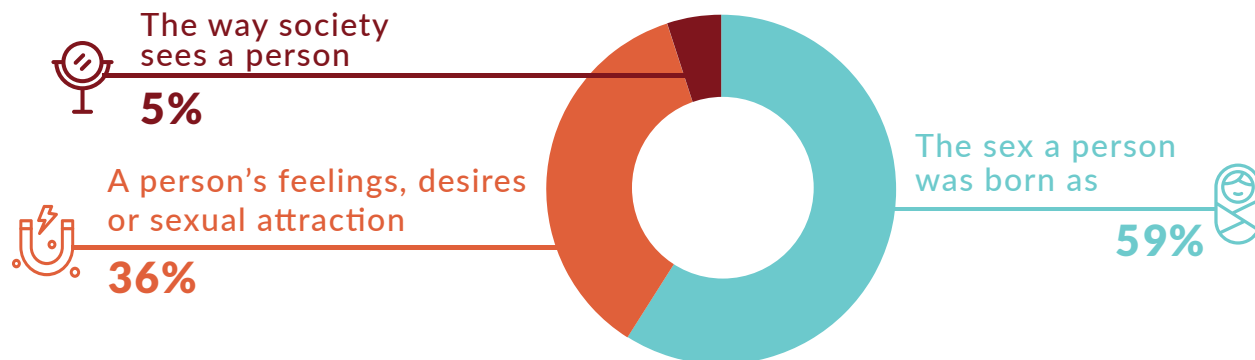
Overall, my family experience has been good.



I believe that it is important for me to contribute to the well-being of my community.

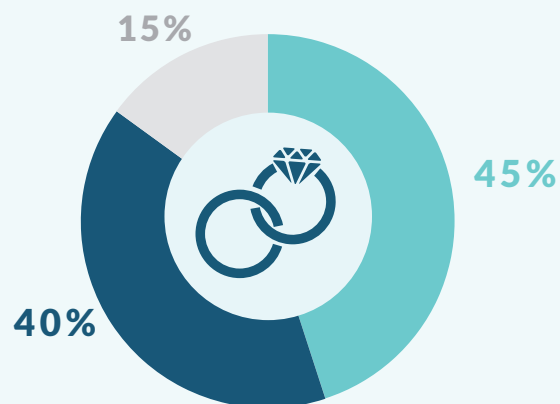


WHAT DO YOU THINK GENDER IS PRIMARILY BASED ON?



Should marriage be exclusively between a man and a woman?

● YES ● NO ● MAYBE



Influences and Guiding Voices

MEANING OF LIFE

Where do you go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 38% | 4 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 12% |
| 2 SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE 21% | 5 OFFLINE MEDIA 10% |
| 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 15% | 6 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 5% |

RIGHT AND WRONG

Where do you go most often for information or guidance about what is right and wrong?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 53% | 4 SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE 10% |
| 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 15% | 5 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 6% |
| 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 12% | 6 OFFLINE MEDIA 3% |

GENDER & SEXUALITY

Where do you go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality, or other sexual issues?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE 31% | 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 13% |
| 2 FAMILY MEMBERS 24% | 5 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 6% |
| 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 22% | 6 OFFLINE MEDIA 5% |