



# WHAT'S UP?

A PAGE FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

The newsletter designed to help you better understand and relate to today's youth culture and your church's teenagers—including your own.

SUMMER 2020

## CULTURE WATCH

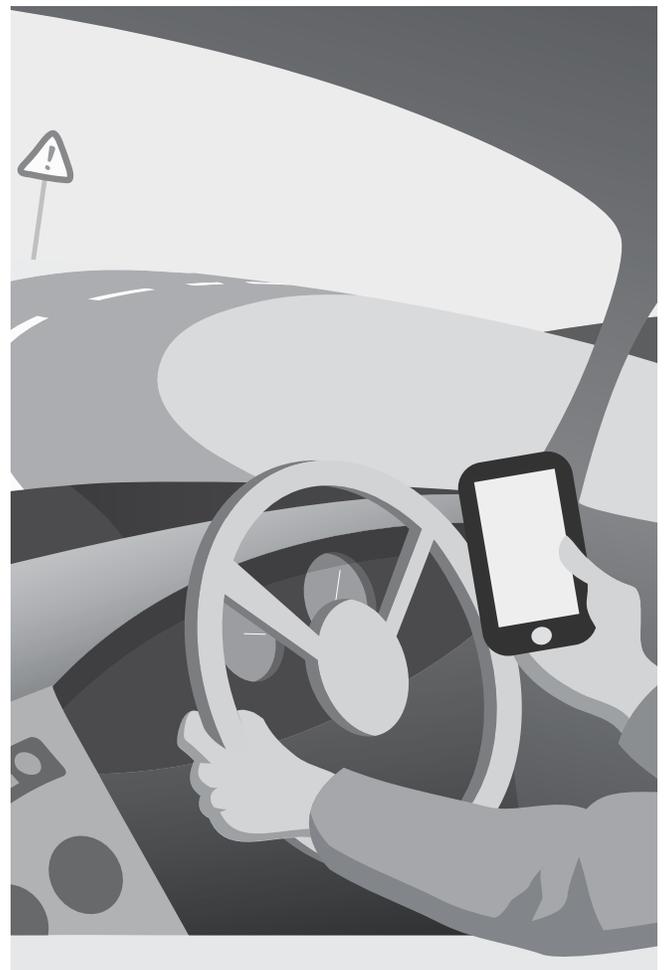


According to the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, an important issue to address with our teens is distracted driving, especially texting and using their phones. Following are some facts from a CPYU fact sheet.

Over 80% of teens admit that they have used their phones while driving. Teens and young adults are more likely than other age groups to text or email while driving. Around 80% of crashes involve these and similar distractions. According to the Department of Transportation, 1.6 million crashes per year involve cell phones. Over 330,000 people per year are injured because of drivers' texting behind the wheel. Texting while driving makes a person six times more likely

to cause a wreck than if he or she were intoxicated, and 23 times more likely to wreck. Texting makes us much slower to respond and hit the brakes than drunk driving does. An average of 11 teens per day are killed as a result of texting while driving.

These numbers make it imperative that we help our teens set rules and boundaries that will keep them from being distracted by texting and other phone use.



The articles in *Forward* and *Velocity* magazines provide great discussion starters for you and your teen. Also, devotions for teens cover the same topics as the adult devotions in *FUSION* and *FUSIONnext*, creating opportunities for family Bible study. Read them, discuss them, and use them as a tool for discipleship in the home.

**HEADS UP!**

Randall House can help provide resources to find answers to the hard questions.  
Contact [hardquestions@randallhouse.com](mailto:hardquestions@randallhouse.com).

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Now that summer is here, have a picnic and enjoy a watermelon. Go swimming at the local lake or watering hole. Go out for your favorite ice cream treat. Find a free concert to attend. Make homemade ice cream and brownies. Go on a road trip to see a state park or waterfall. Enjoy these summer activities with your family.

# PARENTING TEENS

So what can parents do to help their teens set boundaries for phone use while driving? Here are some suggestions.

**Have regular talks with your teen about safe driving.**

**Share with your teen the statistics from the Culture Watch section.**

**Make sure your teen knows the cell phone driving laws for your state.**

**Ask your teen to turn his or her cell phone off while driving.**

**Ask your teens to make sure any necessary phone use while driving involves a hands-free device.**

**Talk with them about having a passenger read and respond to any text messages.**

**Set an example of safe driving for your teen.**

Research shows that it makes a difference for parents to talk with their teens about safe driving! Sometimes rules seem inconvenient and frustrating. But they are intended for our safety and well-being. That's true about God's rules too!

## Do you like *What's Up?*

Let us know what you think, and make any suggestions for improvements. Contact us at [fusion@d6family.com](mailto:fusion@d6family.com) or call 800-877-7030.

## ON the CALENDAR

- Jun 5** National Doughnut Day
- Jun 12** National Flip Flop Day
- Jun 14** Flag Day
- Jun 21** Father's Day
- Jun 26** Forgiveness Day
- Jul 4** Independence Day
- Jul 6** National Fried Chicken Day
- Jul 15** National Hot Dog Day
- Jul 19** National Ice Cream Day
- Jul 26** Parent's Day
- Aug 2** Friendship Day
- Aug 9** Book Lover's Day
- Aug 14** V-J Day (End of WWII)
- Aug 16** National Tell a Joke Day
- Aug 25** Kiss and Make Up Day

**CELEBRATE!**

## POSITIVE NEWS ABOUT TEENS

Julia Warren founded an organization called *celebrate! RVA* to provide memorable birthday parties for kids living in poverty in Richmond, Virginia. The organization recruits volunteers and donations, and provides food, activities, decorations, and cake for the parties.

