

# 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.

# CULTURE WATCH



The viewing landscape is changing, especially for teens. Where live TV once dominated, teens now spend much of their viewing time on other platforms, YouTube and Netflix in particular.

Citing new research by Trendera, Nathan Malone reports in a Business Insider article ([www.businessinsider.com/teens-watching-netflix-youtube-more-than-tv-2017-5?r=UK&IR=T](http://www.businessinsider.com/teens-watching-netflix-youtube-more-than-tv-2017-5?r=UK&IR=T)) teens on average now spend 34% of their viewing time on YouTube, 27% on Netflix, and only 14% on live TV. Several other platforms bring up the rear.



McAlone also reported that a recent survey of US college students showed that only 8% said they did not have access to a Netflix account. Many (54%) said they used a friend's or a family member's account, but that is still an astounding number who have access to an account.

For parents who desire to monitor their teens' viewing habits and teach them to make good choices about what to watch, this is important information. Whereas TV

viewing can be easier to monitor in the home, YouTube, Netflix, and other platforms are more difficult to monitor. 34% of teens said they were using a smartphone for viewing, and 26% use a computer. Those devices are more difficult to monitor.

This means that parents need to be aware of the viewing options their teens are choosing, and need to talk with them about making good choices regarding this important influence in their lives.

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!**



The holiday season is an incredibly busy time—between church commitments and extended family gatherings, it’s easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle. Set aside some intentional time to spend with your family. Make a gingerbread house together. Write thank-you notes. Have a family game night. Do a service project together. However you choose to spend time with your family, do so with an attitude of thankfulness and joy!

## PARENTING TEENS

One of the ongoing battles faced by Christian parents is trying to help their teens make wise and God-honoring decisions about what they view on TV, and on other platforms. Complicating this battle is the trend by today’s teens to spend more time viewing on YouTube, Netflix, and other harder to monitor platforms. Here are a few suggestions for concerned parents.

**Know what your teen has access to.** Do some reading. Make yourself aware of what is available to your teens for viewing, and on what devices. Talk openly with your teens about this subject, asking what they and their friends are viewing, and on what platforms and devices they are viewing it.

**Teach your teen to use biblical principles in choosing what to watch.** Ask your teens what kinds of programming they think are inappropriate for Chris-

tians who desire to please God with their viewing choices. Look together at Bible passages that speak to this issue. Explain the dangers of unfiltered viewing, and why it is always best for us to follow God’s guidelines for purity in what we allow into our eyes and minds.

**Consider using filtering or accountability apps where available.** Check to see what is available to block, filter, or report content for the devices and platforms your teens use.

**Consider limiting device usage.** Consider setting some limits on when and where your teens can use their devices. Get their input on these limits.

**Model good viewing habits for your teen.** Set a good example of conscientious viewing habits. Choose wisely what you watch. Consider limiting your own device usage.

### 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

- Dec 7** Letter Writing Day
- Dec 12** Gingerbread House Day
- Dec 25** Christmas Day
- Dec 26** Thank You Note Day
- Jan 1** New Year’s Day
- Jan 18** Thesaurus Day
- Jan 23** National Pie Day
- Jan 29** National Puzzle Day
- Feb 2** Groundhog Day
- Feb 8** Kite Flying Day
- Feb 14** Valentine’s Day
- Feb 22** Be Humble Day

## CELEBRATE!

## POSITIVE NEWS ABOUT TEENS

Recently, a Virginia teen was driving home with his mom when he saw an elderly man with a walker trying to shovel snow from his driveway. The teen asked his mom to stop the car so he could get out and shovel the man’s driveway for him. The boy’s mom videoed his act of kindness and expressed how incredibly proud she was of her son. What seems like a small act of kindness to us was a huge blessing for the elderly man!

