

# Bringing Faith into the Home

Queensway Parents Club ❖ February 9, 2016

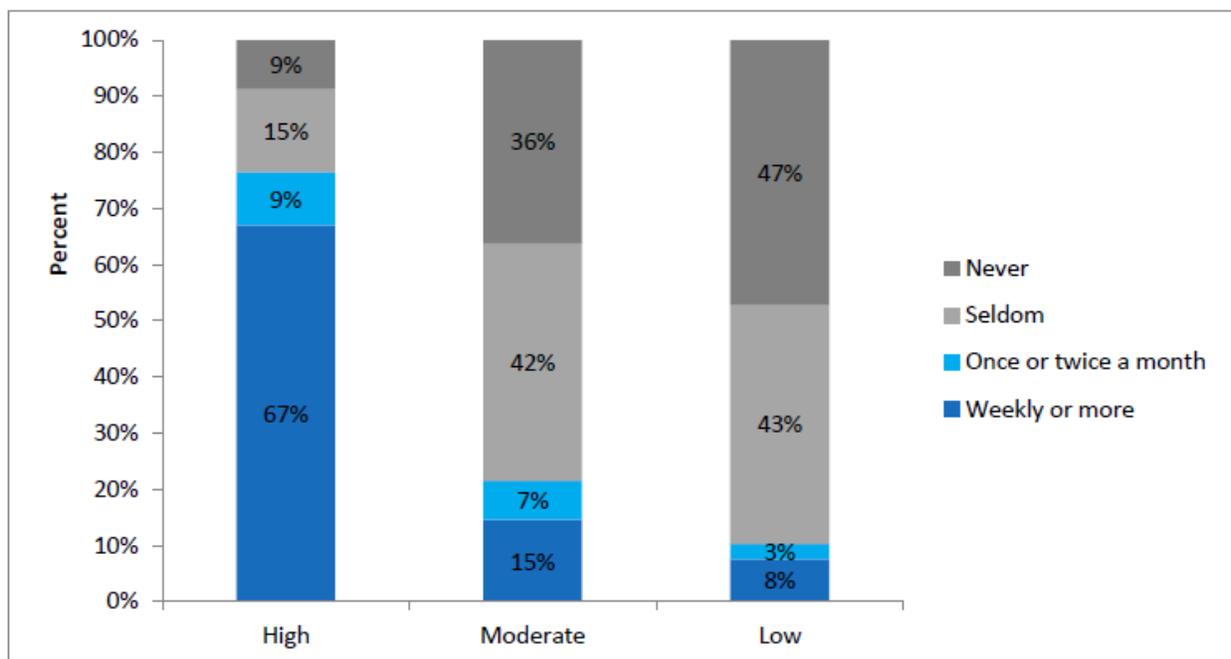
## Research

If we were to interview your children today, how often would they tell us they see you...

1. Reading the Bible
2. Praying outside of table grace
3. Going to church regularly?

The following graph is from the "Hemorrhaging Faith" study conducted in Canada in 2011. It graphs young adult (age 18-34) church attendance based on their answers to the following questions:

1. Did your mother/father read the Bible regularly during your upbringing?
2. Do you believe your mother/father prayed regularly outside of table grace?
3. Did your mother/father attended religious services regularly during your upbringing?<sup>1</sup>

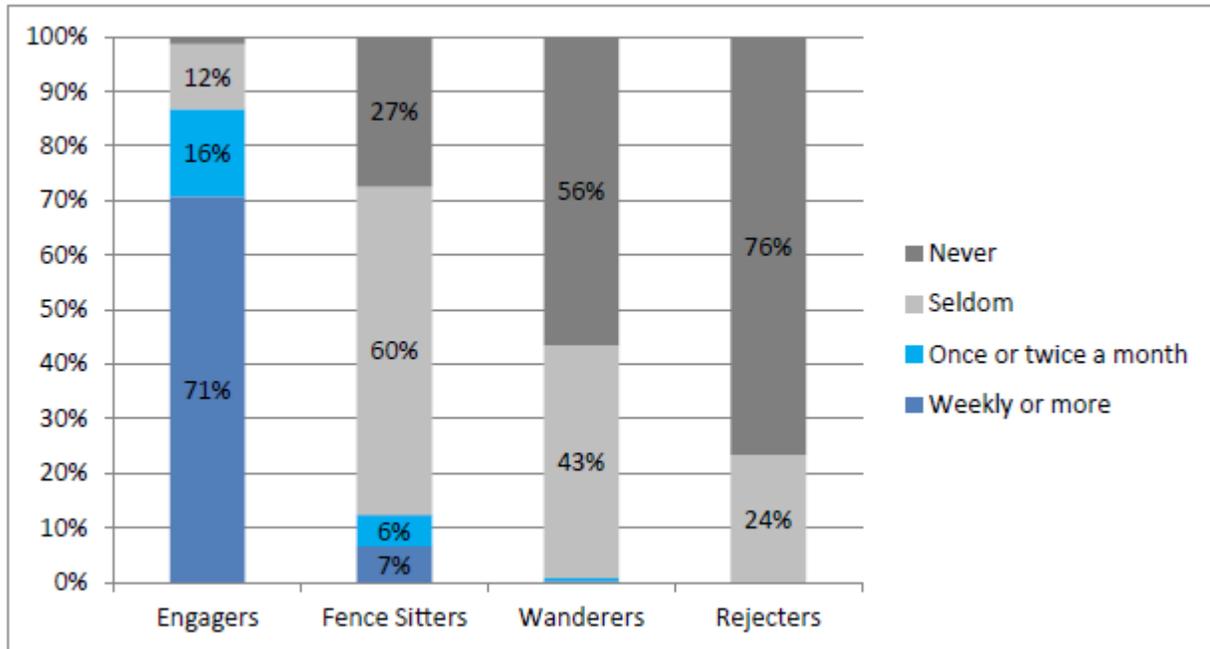


Those young adults that responded "yes" to these questions are in the "High" category. Those that responded with a mixture of "yes" and "no" are in the "Moderate" category. Those that responded "no" to these questions are in the "Low" category.

As we can see, if your child is not seeing you reading the Bible, praying outside of table grace, and going to church regularly, then if they were a young adult today they are about 20% likely to regularly go to church. Now, we know the trends are getting worse, so by the time your children are young adults the statistic is likely to be *less* than 20%. And, unlike generations before who would continue to identify as

<sup>1</sup> James Penner et al., *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why & When Canadian Youth Adults are Leaving, Staying & Returning to the Church* (Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 2012), 75.

Christian but simply not go to church, the following graph paints a different picture for the current generation:



This graph shows how often today's young adults attend church according to how engaged they are in their faith. As we can see, it is largely only those engaged in faith who are attending church. Those on the fences of church simply do not come.

What does this mean? Well, to put it bluntly...

**Research is showing if parents are not visibly engaged in Bible reading, prayer, and regular church attendance, their children are only about 20% likely or less to continue in authentic faith as an adult.**

## It Starts with You

The lesson here is not that you simply have to be putting on a Christian show for your children. "Fake it 'till you make it" is not a viable strategy.

**Central question:** How are you building your relationship with Christ?

Ways to do this:

1. Small group attendance
2. Regular worship attendance
3. Personal spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, prayer, etc)
4. Service

"What if I'm not the Christian I want my kids to be?" JOIN THE CLUB! We're all on the journey, and we all need Jesus's guidance and forgiveness.

## Faith in Home Ideas

1. Build a home of warm relationships (more correlated with faith transmission than any other relational factor; this extends to friends as well)
2. Family time together needs to be protected (not quantity of time, not quality time, *but quantity of quality time*; planned *and* spontaneous; manage technology)
3. Enter their world (especially as they become teenagers, spending time on their terms can be very effective)
4. Non-threatening, agenda-free faith connections (e.g., “How can I pray for you”, family scripture passage, Advent/Lent projects, share your faith story)
5. An atmosphere where faith can be explored (doubt, tricky questions, no black and white)
6. Serve together
7. Be proactive about transitions (research shows faith falls off most drastically in transitions: children to Jr. High, Jr. High to Sr. High, Sr. High to college/university)

## Resources

There are literally 1000s of great ideas for bringing faith into the home.

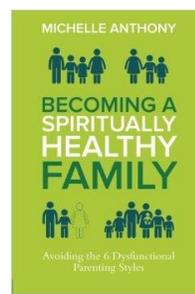
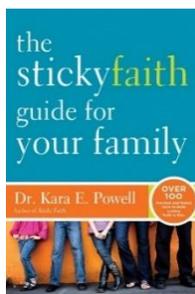
### Newsletters

- Sticky Faith Family Update (<http://stickyfaith.org/family>)
- CBOQ Children & Family Top 10 eNews for Parents (<http://cboqkids.ca/sign-up/>)
- Paul Robertson’s “Understanding Today’s Youth” Newsletter (<http://paulrobertson.ca>)

### Right Now Media

Families connected to our congregation can sign up for free for our Right Now Media streaming service. There are hundreds of free video-based teaching sessions including many that are targeted to parents.

### Resources that were helpful for today’s session



### Other recommended parenting books

