

GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE

Africa Report

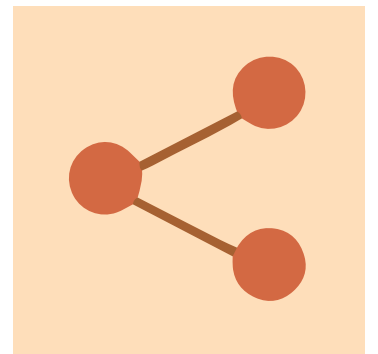
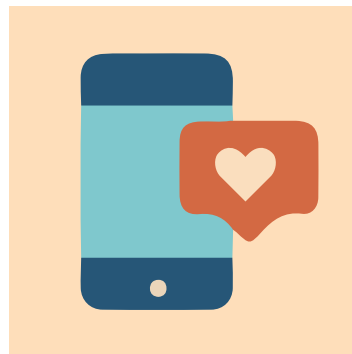


Table of Contents

3 INTRODUCTION

5 RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

21 INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

31 PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

43 DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

52 IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

63 LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

67 ABOUT ONEHOPE

67 METHODOLOGY

68 DEFINITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Each new generation is unique in its own way, and research can help us understand how the world looks through different eyes. The world's current generation of teens and young adults is sometimes called Generation Z. Across Africa, there are 48 million Generation Z teens ages 13-19 comprising about 15% of the population.¹

This research reveals the habits, struggles, beliefs and influences of teens across Africa, specifically in the countries of Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. It also reveals teens' views of God, Jesus, the Bible, and the church. This data is part of a larger global study that surveyed teens across 20 countries. We believe this study is the most comprehensive of its kind in terms of taking a deep look at the faith of this generation. The thousands of data points we collected create a picture of this global generation including the values they share, the struggles they face, and what teens are looking to for answers and hope.

¹ United Nations Population Division, Total Population Database, <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/> Accessed August 2020.



20 countries



8,394 teens globally



Ages 13-19



70 Item Survey



Africa: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa (1,275 teens surveyed)

Asia: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam (2,100 teens surveyed)

Eurasia: Egypt, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, The United Kingdom (2,936 teens surveyed)

Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico (1,673 teens surveyed)

North America: United States (410 teens surveyed)

ABOUT THE AFRICA DATA

Though part of the same continent, these three African countries are quite different and have their own history, culture, beliefs, and opinions that have shaped the current generation. Each country's young people are obviously distinct and this research highlights some of those differences.

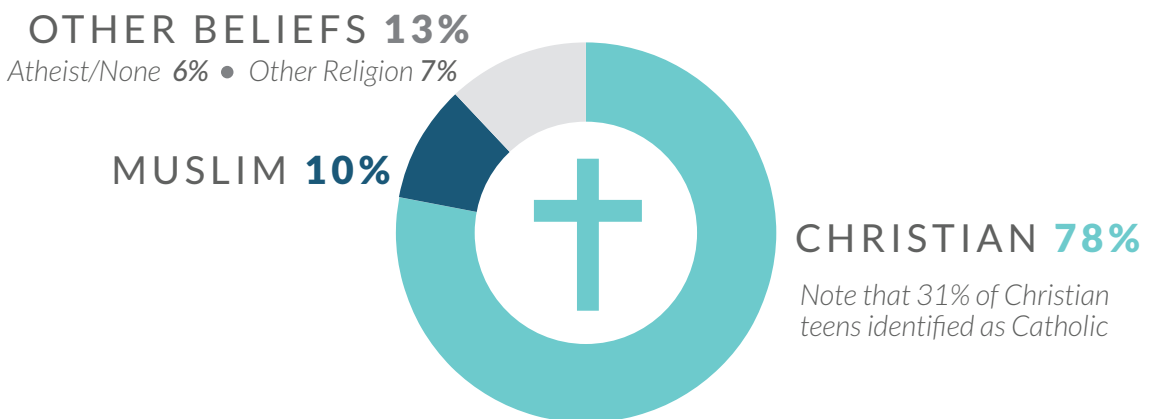
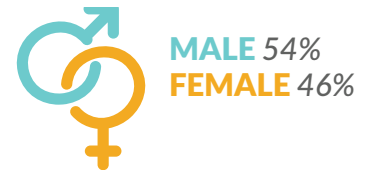
We hope you not only learn something new, but that your mind and heart are moved to action on behalf of this generation who so need the hope of the Gospel in their lives. Every statistic in this study represents many individual teens with their own sets of hopes, fears, and daily challenges. Each of those teens has a name, a story, and an eternal destiny. OneHope is dedicated to affecting those destinies by reaching every young person in every country with God's Word.

AFRICA: 1275 Internet Connected¹ teens surveyed

KENYA: 435 teens surveyed

NIGERIA: 420 teens surveyed

SOUTH AFRICA: 420 teens surveyed



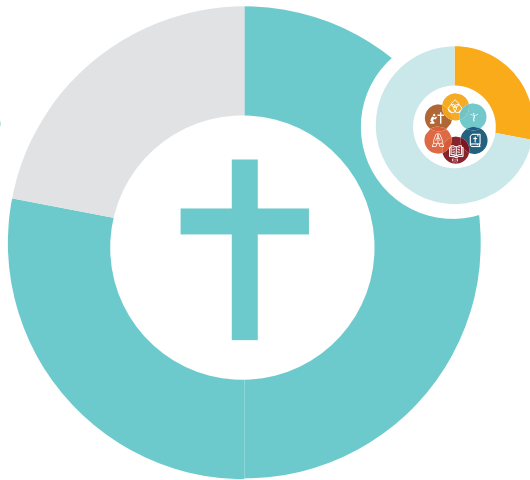
¹ As the survey was distributed digitally, being Internet-connected was a prerequisite for participants in this study. Therefore, this data should not be taken to represent all teens in Africa but only those who have regular access to the Internet.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

AFRICA REPORT

What We Discovered

78% of African teens identified as **Christian** — the highest of any region in our global study.



28% of teens were discovered to be **Committed Christians**.

See definition on page 8.



82% of Christian teens say the **children's ministry** they attended played an **important role** in their spiritual growth.



Fewer than half of Christian teens (45%) **read their Bible** at least weekly.

Teens who don't go to church say they are open to attending if invited, with **African countries** being among the **top in our study to demonstrate this kind of openness**.



Teens say that a **personal experience** such as an answer to prayer would be **most likely to change their mind** about a religious belief.

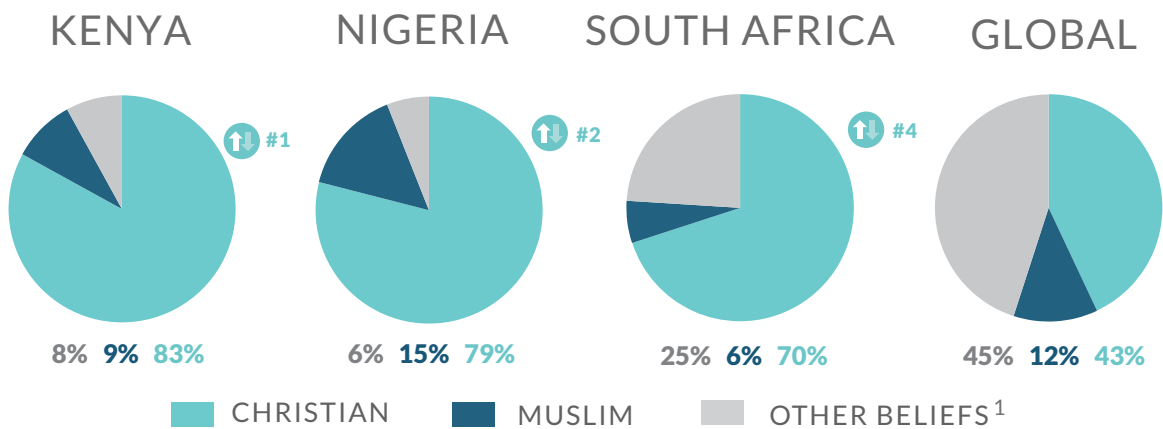


Two in three African teens have a Scriptural view of God, Jesus, and the Bible. **But half of teens** (49%) in Africa **also say all religions teach equally valid truths**.

Religious Attitudes and Behaviors

This research study was uniquely comprehensive in examining the role faith and religion play in the lives of teens in Africa. What do they believe? How are they putting their beliefs into practice? What would change their mind? We knew we wanted to explore the religious attitudes and behaviors of today's teens and the impact of those on other areas of their lives.

RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



Nearly 8 in 10 African teens (78%) identified themselves as Christian. One in ten were Muslim; with the remaining teens reporting either another religion or no religion. Africa was the most Christian region in our study, with Kenya having the most Christians of any of the 20 countries surveyed. Nigeria ranked second globally and South Africa ranked fourth.

AFRICA WAS THE MOST CHRISTIAN REGION IN OUR STUDY

More than 4 in 5 Christian teens (82%) say they have committed their lives to Jesus Christ, with 13 being the average reported age for this.

But what does it truly mean to be a Christian? We looked at the core beliefs and key spiritual disciplines that would reveal a teen is a Committed Christian.

GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

¹ Includes respondents who identified as "other religion" or "no"

6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIAN TEENS

- Believe God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him
- Pray at least weekly
- Read Scripture on their own at least weekly



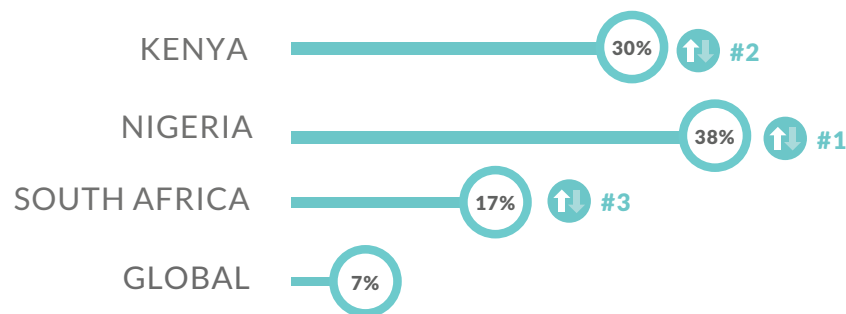
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God
- Believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ
- Believe the Bible is the Word of God

** 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.*

Globally, only 7% of teens surveyed were Committed Christians. In Africa, however, we discovered that **28% of teens were Committed Christians**. Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa were the **top 3 countries globally** to have the most Committed Christian young people.

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS BY COUNTRY

↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

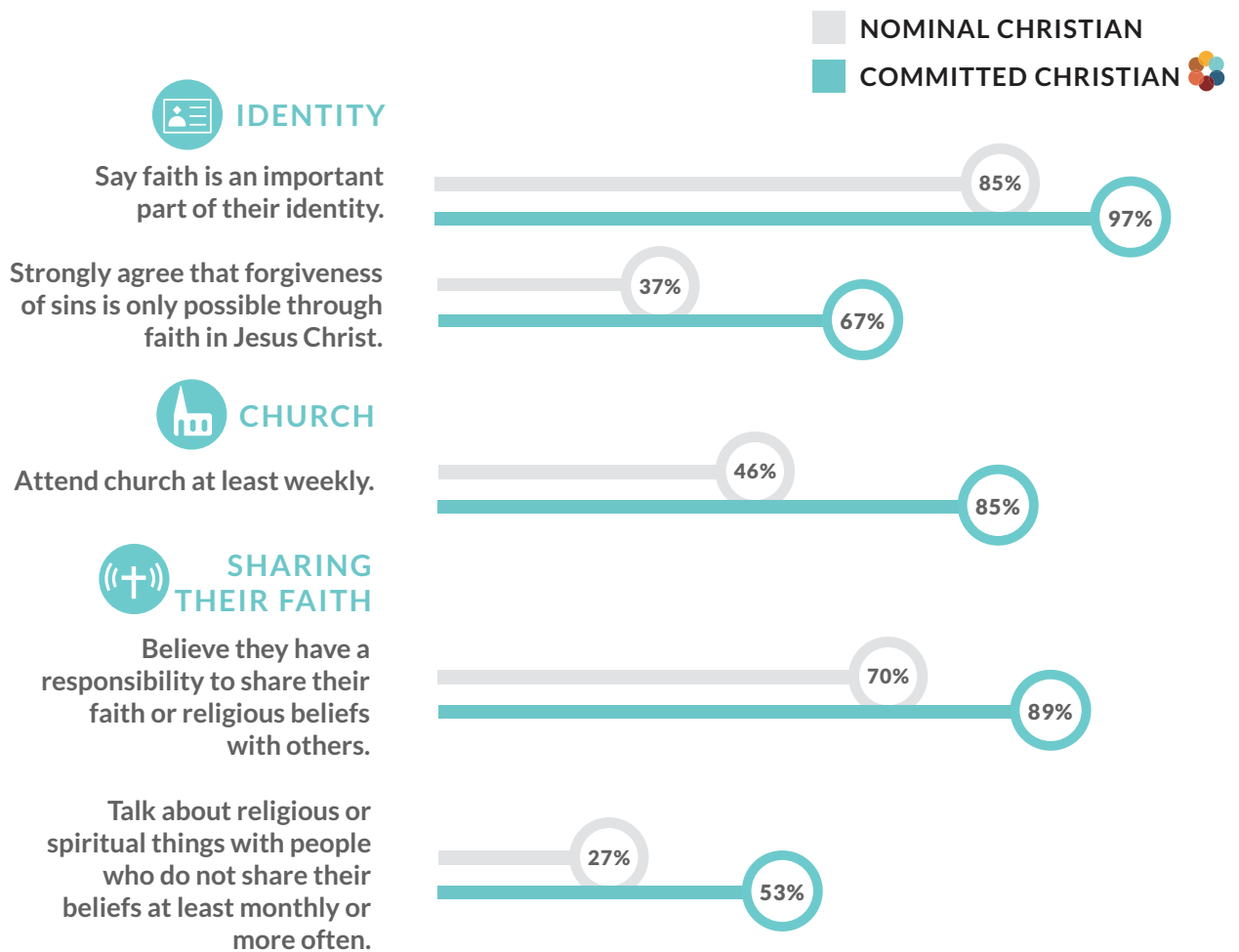


Any Christian teen who did not meet one or more of the criteria for committedness were considered to be a “Nominal Christian” in this study. Of African Christian young people surveyed, around 1 in 3 were Committed Christians and 2 in 3 were Nominal Christians.

Committed Christians: 1 in 3 (36%)
 Nominal Christians: 2 in 3 (64%)

Committed to their Faith

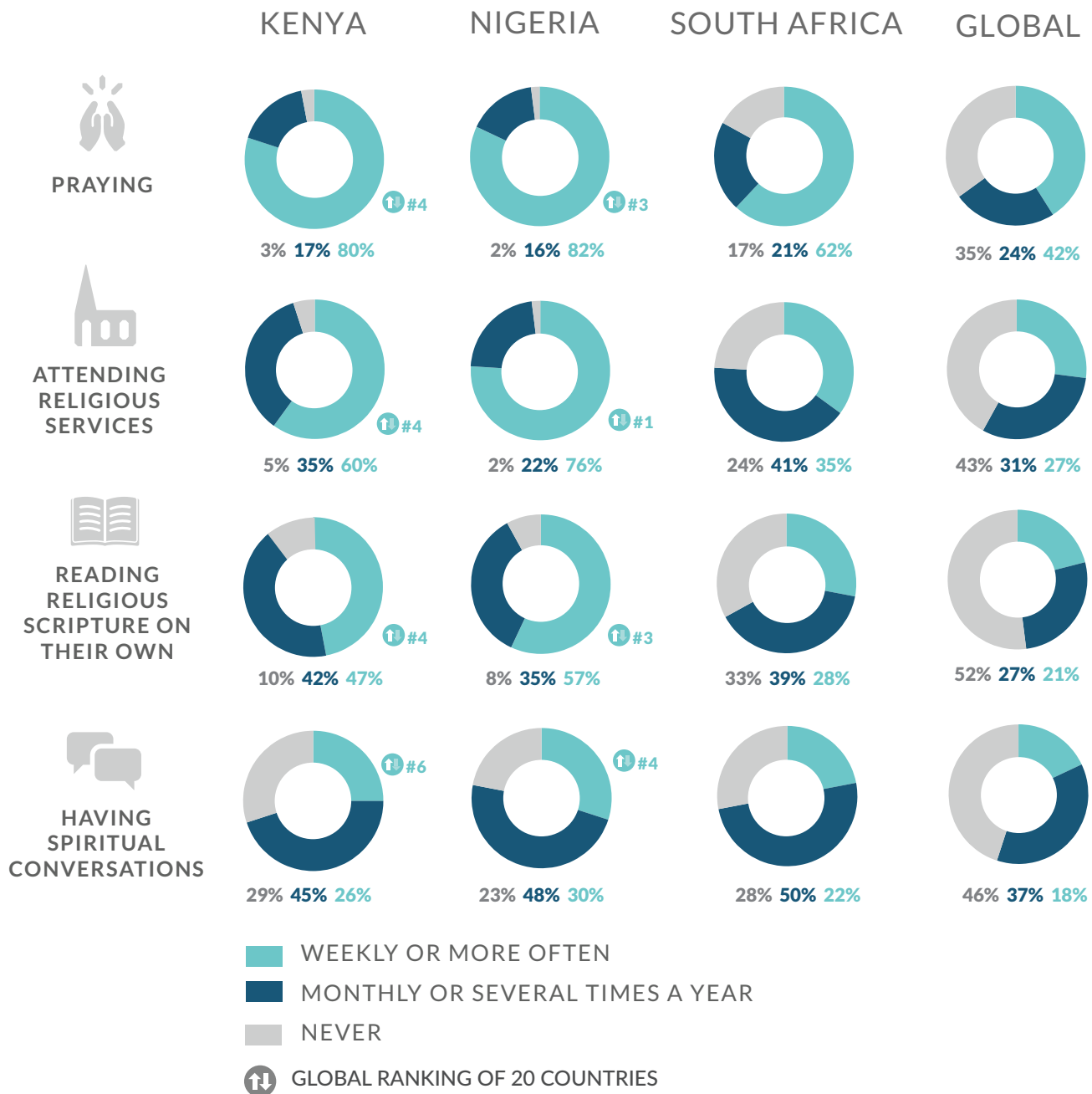
How do Committed Christians and Nominal Christians differ? Both groups still overwhelmingly say their faith is important to them. But their priorities differed in certain key beliefs as well as behaviors such as attending church, reading their Bible, and sharing their faith.



JUST 14% OF NOMINAL CHRISTIANS SAY THEY READ THEIR BIBLE AT LEAST WEEKLY.

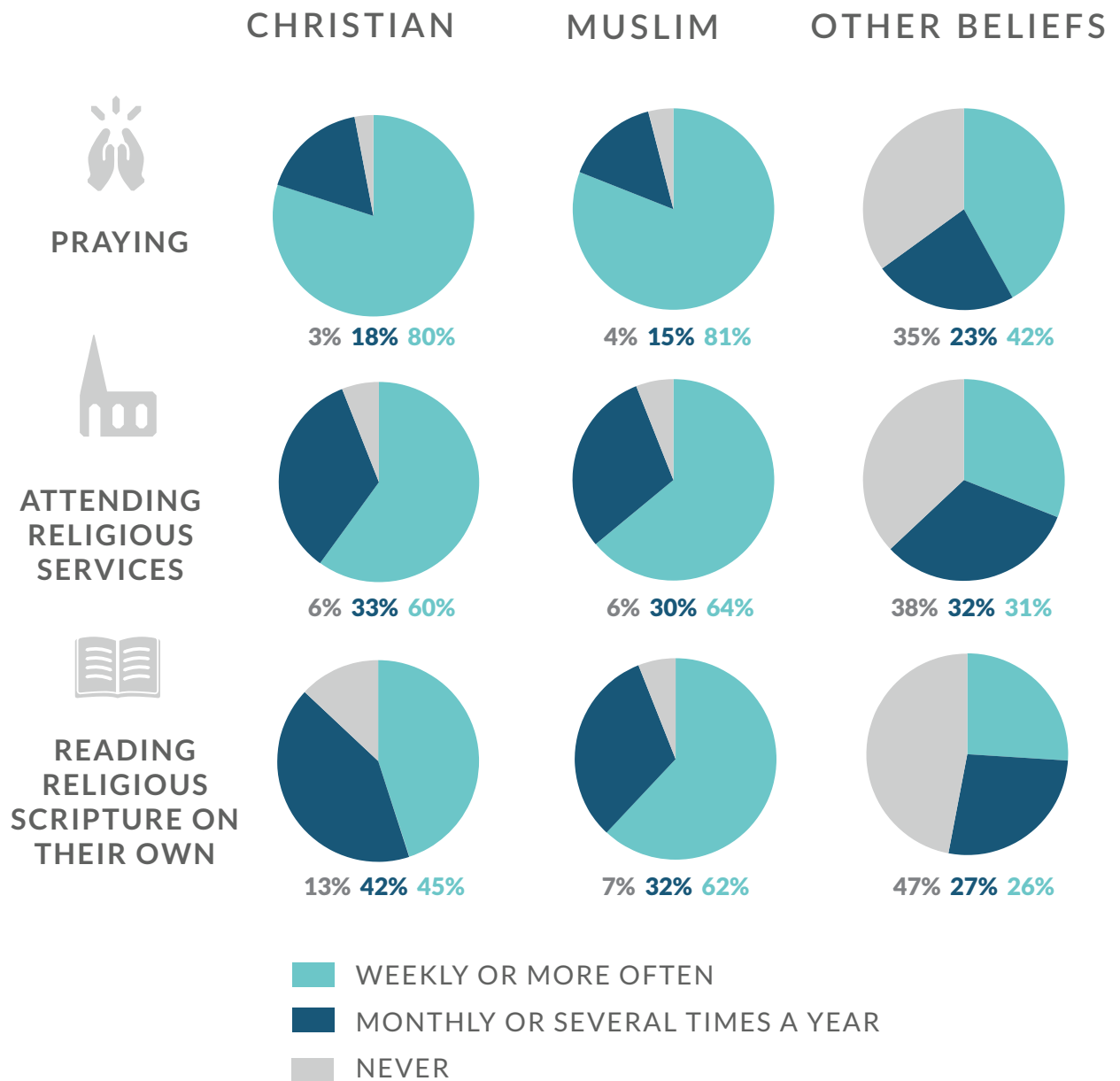
Religious Habits

Teens in Africa were much more likely than teens around the world to be engaging in religious habits including gathering with their faith community, reading scripture, praying, and having spiritual conversations. Overall, teens in Nigeria were the most likely to be doing these things regularly, but Kenya was also consistently ranked in the top 4 countries globally for these items. Teens in South Africa were less likely than their African peers to be regularly engaging in religious behaviors, with the exception of having spiritual conversations—where they were in the top 3 countries globally.



Spiritual Disciplines by Religion

Engaging in spiritual disciplines is how we grow our faith. Encouragingly, Christian teens in Africa reported praying and attending church regularly. However, **fewer than half are reading their Bibles at least weekly**. In contrast, Muslim teens in Africa are seen to be quite disciplined about reading their religious scripture and similarly devout as Christians in praying and attending religious services. Teens of other beliefs said they sometimes engage in these religious behaviors.

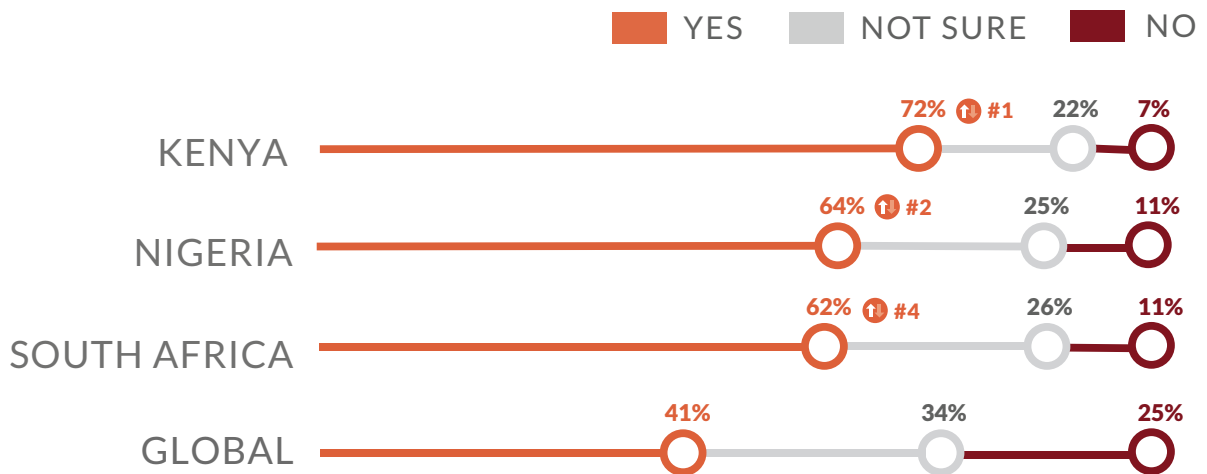


Teens and the Church

A church community can play a formative role in a young person's life and continue to be a place of support and encouragement as they mature. Why aren't more teens at church? They may just need an invitation. Most teens who do not attend church say they would be open to coming if someone invited them. African countries were in the top 4 globally to demonstrate this kind of openness to attending.

MOST TEENS WHO DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH SAY THEY WOULD BE OPEN TO COMING IF SOMEONE

OPEN TO ATTENDING CHURCH



The witness of the church and the people in it is powerful to a watching world. Our research shows that the majority of African teens have a positive perception of Christians. 7 in 10 teens say the Christians they know are kind and caring.

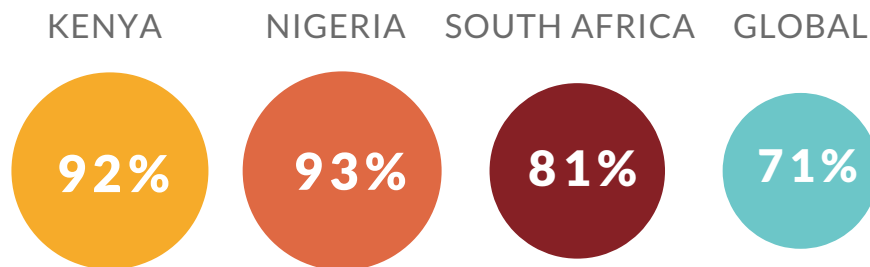
↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

Their Church Experience

We were curious about the impact that children's and youth ministry is having on the lives of teens. **The vast majority of Christian teens in Africa report that they attended a church's children's ministry.** More than 4 in 5 of those teens (82%) said that experience played an important role in their spiritual growth.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE

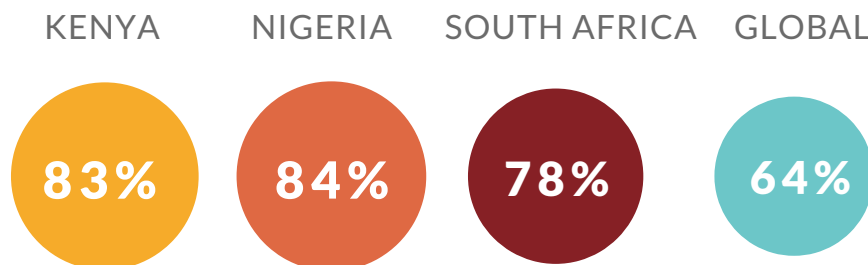
I attended a children's ministry



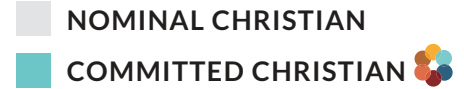
The impact of children's ministry was seen to vary by country. In addition, Committed Christians were more likely than Nominal Christians to report that children's ministry played an important role in their spiritual growth.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IMPACT

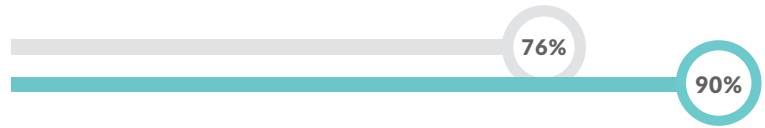
A church's children's ministry played an important role in my spiritual growth



CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND



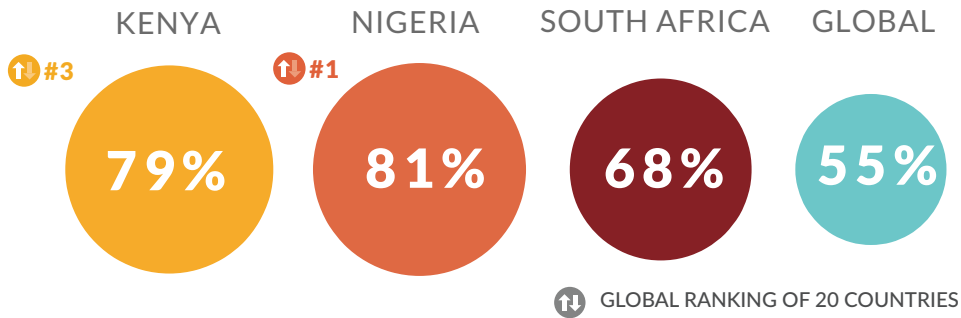
A church's children's ministry played an important role in my spiritual growth



When it comes to youth ministry, we asked teens to report if their church has a dedicated leader for young people their age. Nigeria was the top country in our global survey to report that their churches have youth leaders, with Kenya also being highly ranked.

YOUTH MINISTRY

My church has a youth or young adults pastor

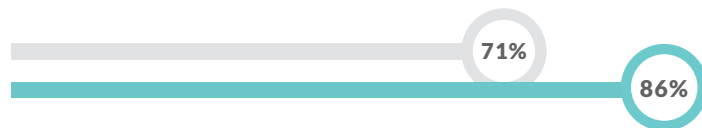


Many Committed Christian teens reported having a young pastor or an adult mentor at their church. Fewer Nominal Christians said they had these kinds of spiritual leaders in their lives.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP



My church has a youth or young adults pastor



I have an adult mentor at church who is helping me grow spiritually




Unfortunately, even though most Christian teens say their church has a youth pastor, fewer than half of these teens (45%) say they talk about life issues or concerns with leaders at their church. It is possible they are getting good advice elsewhere, as most (64%) say they have an adult at church who is mentoring them. It is critical for young people to have wise counsel in their lives from people who have been walking with Jesus for many years and can share from the maturity of their faith.

Spiritual Viewpoints

Even apart from Christians or religious teens, African young people in general say spirituality is very important to them. Nearly 9 in 10 say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity. Nigeria was the number one country globally to say this, with Kenya also ranked in the top 5.

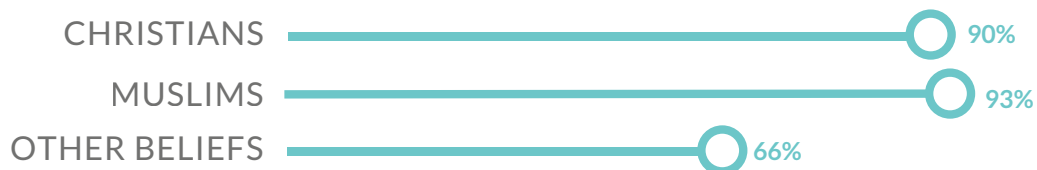
IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUALITY BY COUNTRY

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



Muslims and Christians were almost equally as likely to say their faith was an important part of their identity, but teens of other beliefs were much lower.

IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUALITY BY RELIGION

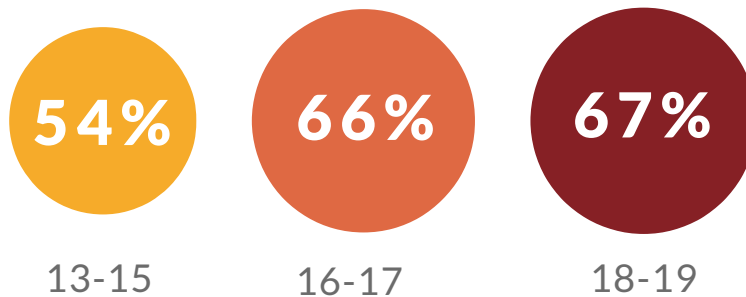


The majority of Africa's teens also have a scriptural view of God, Jesus, and the Bible. **Two in three teens agree that God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that the Bible is the Word of God.** This appears to be a viewpoint that comes with maturity, as younger teens are less likely than older teens to hold all three of these views.

66% OF AFRICAN TEENS HAVE A SCRIPTURAL VIEW OF GOD, JESUS, AND THE BIBLE.

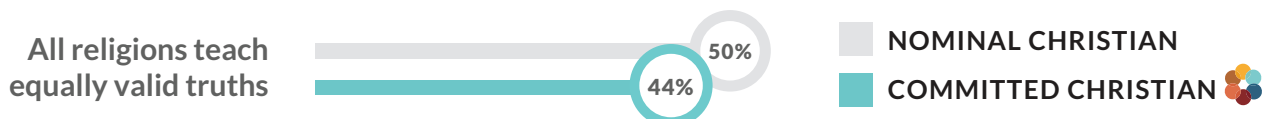
SCRIPTURAL VIEWPOINTS BY AGE

Teens who have a coherent Scriptural view of God, Jesus and the Bible



Interestingly, 16% of Muslims align with the Christian view of God, Jesus, and the Bible. Around 1 in 6 Muslim young people agree that God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that the Bible is the Word of God. In addition, 65% of Muslim teens across Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa say all religions teach equally valid truths, possibly indicating an openness to finding truth in other religions. These numbers show that some Muslim young people are spiritually open and there may be common ground to be able to share the Good News of the Gospel.

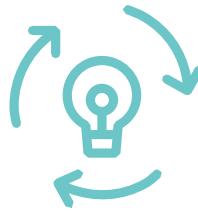
However, confusion about truth persists even among Christian young people. Half of teens in Africa (49%) say all religions teach equally valid truths, and numbers are not much better among Christian teens.



What Changes their Mind

We wanted to discover what would make teens change their mind about a religious belief they already hold. Personal experiences, such as an answer to prayer, was the most popular answer. This matched the global trend, but African teens were observed to place even more value on personal experiences than others in their global generation.

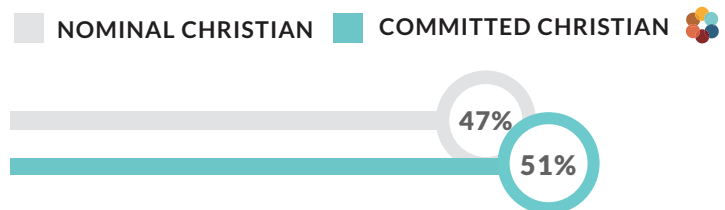
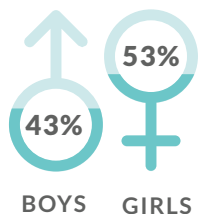
WHAT WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT A RELIGIOUS BELIEF?



- 1 PERSONAL EXPERIENCES SUCH AS AN ANSWER TO PRAYER: 48%**
compared to 37% globally
- 2 MY OWN INVESTIGATION ONLINE OR IN BOOKS: 23%**
compared to 26% globally
- 3 TEACHINGS FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS: 16%**
compared to 12% globally
- 4 A CONVERSATION WITH MY PARENTS: 10%**
compared to 18% globally
- 5 A CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS: 4%**
compared to 8% globally

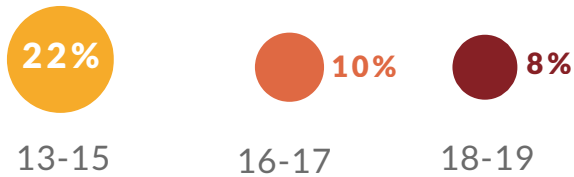


PERSONAL EXPERIENCES *would be most likely to change my mind*



A CONVERSATION WITH MY PARENTS

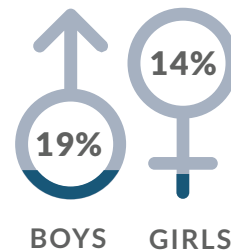
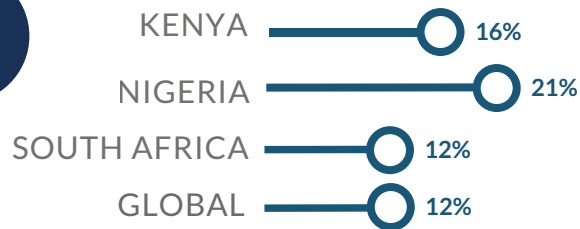
would be most likely to change my mind about a religious belief.



Younger teens ages 13-15 were more than twice as likely as other age groups to say a conversation with their parents would be highly influential for them, but still personal experiences were the top preference for every age.

TEACHINGS FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS

would be most likely to change my mind about a religious belief.



Teens in Nigeria were the most likely to say that teachings from religious leaders would be persuasive in changing their mind about a religious belief. However, still only 1 in 5 respondents said this, with many fewer in other countries and around the world. Boys were more likely than girls to list religious leaders as an influence.

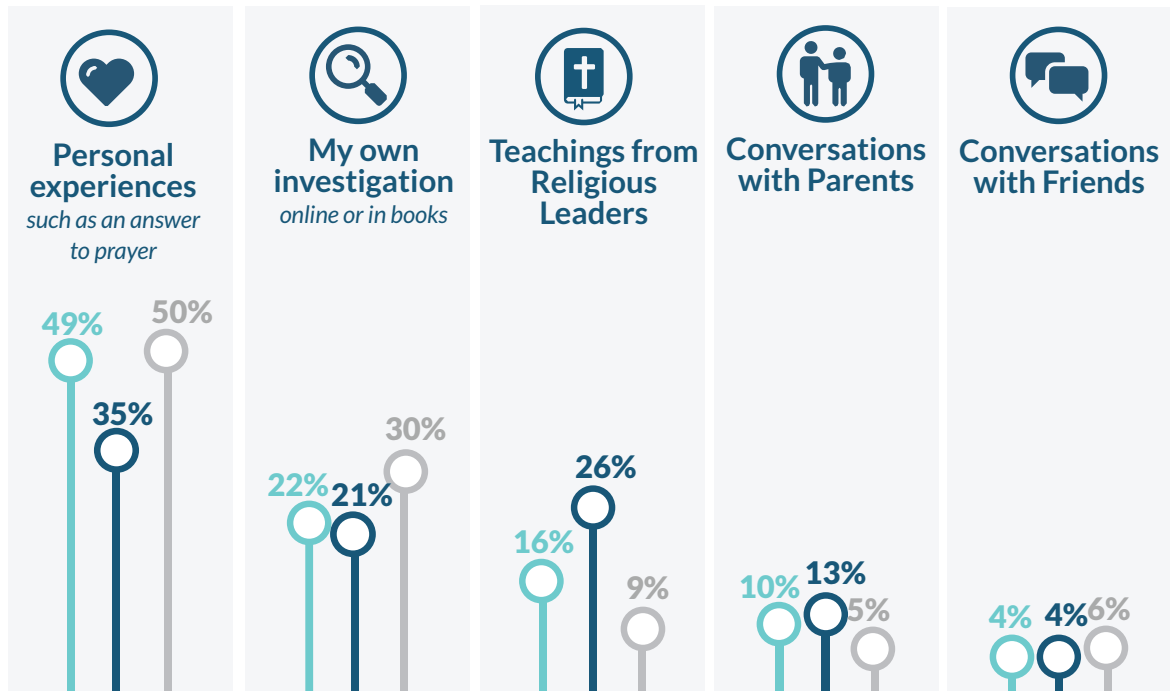
INFLUENCES ON FAITH

What would be most likely to change my mind about a religious belief

CHRISTIAN

MUSLIM

OTHER BELIEFS



We also looked at teens' list of influences as compared with their religion to better understand what those of different faiths find persuasive. Muslims were seen to be the least experiential compared with other teens and to place a higher priority on teachings from religious leaders. Christians and teens of other beliefs were similar in desiring personal experiences.



Conclusion

This data shows where teens are in their spiritual journey and helps us understand their religious identity, habits, and viewpoints. It also points us towards practical action as we seek to share the Gospel with non-believers and disciple Christian teens to maturity in faith.

- **AFRICA HAS THE MOST CHRISTIAN TEENS OF ANY REGION IN OUR GLOBAL STUDY.** However, this does not mean the church should grow complacent. The church has an important role to play in discipling Christian teens to have a strong committed faith. Christian young people need help developing scriptural beliefs and spiritual disciplines that will move them from being nominal believers to mature, thriving Christians.
- **SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.** Fewer than half of Christian teens say they read their Bible at least weekly. In addition, the data shows that younger teens may need more help to develop scriptural views of God, Jesus and the Bible. How can we help this generation engage Scripture in a holistic way that speaks to the real needs and challenges they face in their lives?
- **TEENS NEED TO BE EQUIPPED FOR SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.** Relatively few young people regularly talk to others who do not share their beliefs. In addition, it is concerning to see that many Christian teens don't have a strong understanding that the Gospel's truth is exclusive. How can we help them recognize opportunities to share the hope they have in Christ and communicate in love that the Bible's truth is the only one that can save?
- **TEENS WOULD COME TO CHURCH IF INVITED.** The data shows that this generation has a positive perception of the Christians they know and are open and willing to visit church. They may just lack an invitation. How can we reach out to those who are outside the church and encourage young people to do the same?
- **CHURCHES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THEIR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES.** Many Christian teens say their experience in a children's ministry was highly influential in their lives. But they continue to need discipleship and mentorship in every stage. 13 is the pivotal age for many to say they committed their lives to Christ, making youth ministry critical in continuing to grow the faith of these young believers. How can we continue to equip children's and youth ministry leaders who play a key role in the lives of young people?
- **THIS GENERATION WANTS TO EXPERIENCE FAITH PERSONALLY.** Regardless of religion, teens say a personal experience would be most persuasive in causing them to change their mind about a religious belief. How can we help create environments and opportunities for those experiences to happen?

INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

AFRICA REPORT

What We Discovered

African teens report a **desire to be unique individuals** who stand out from those around them, but also feel a strong responsibility to **contribute to the wellbeing of their community.**



MEANING OF LIFE

Teens report that **family is their go-to for guidance** on some of life's most important topics such as the meaning of life and what is right and wrong.



Most teens report **positive family experiences** and say they talk to their parents about issues that really matter to them.



If a teen's family experience has been **poor**, they turn to their parents for advice less and **go to friends and peers or social media more.**



More than **4 in 5** teens say they **have close friends** who know them well.



Committed Christians are more than twice as likely to **turn to their pastors or Bibles for guidance** as compared with Nominal Christians.

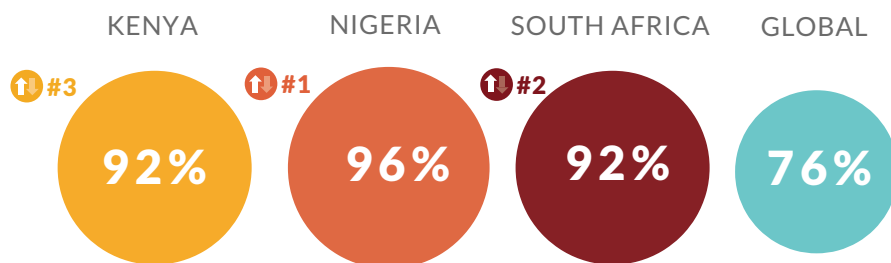
Identity and Community

We were curious what teens have to say about their identity, community, and friend and family relationships. Teens in Africa place a high priority on individuality. African countries were the **top 3 globally** for teens to say it is important to be a unique individual who stands out from those around them. More than **9 in 10** teens said this compared to just 3 in 4 globally.

INDIVIDUALITY BY COUNTRY



It is important to me to be a unique individual and stand out from those around me



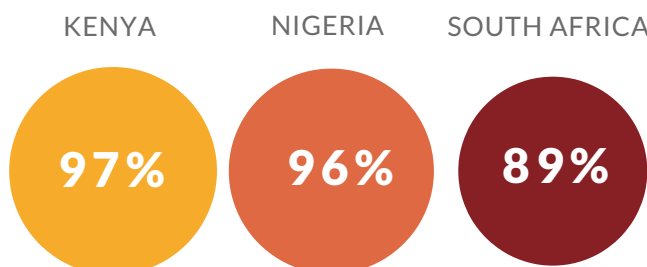
GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

However, this generation's desire for individuality is accompanied by a strong acknowledgement of their responsibility to those around them. Overall, just as many teens who say they want to be unique also say it is important to contribute to the well-being of their community.

COMMUNITY FOCUS BY COUNTRY



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



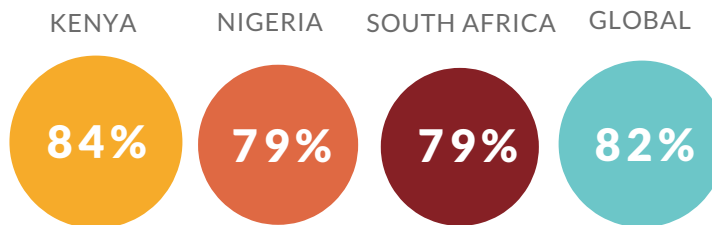
Friend and Family Relationships

Encouragingly, teens indicated they have strong friendships in their lives. Young people in Kenya are observed to be even more satisfied with their friendships than in Nigeria or South Africa.

FRIENDSHIP SATISFACTION



I have close friends who know me well

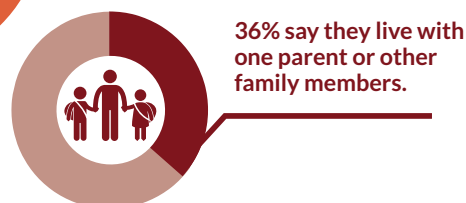
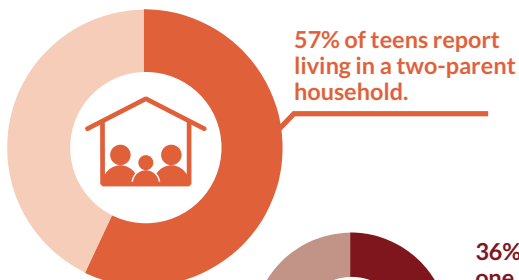
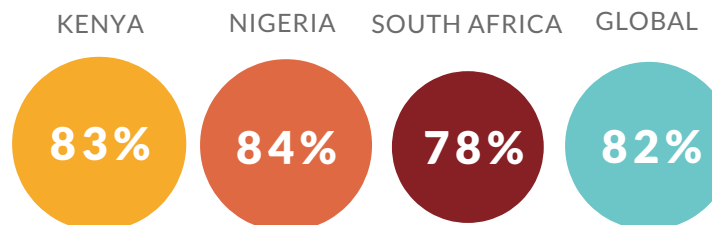


When it comes to their family relationships, the vast majority of African teens say their experience has been positive. More than eight in ten teens (82%) say that overall their family experience has been good. Of the African countries, Nigerian teens are the most satisfied and South African teens are the least satisfied.

FAMILY SATISFACTION



Overall, my family experience has been good

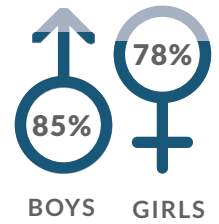


8 IN 10
TEENS
SAY THEIR
FAMILY
EXPERIENCE
HAS BEEN
GOOD

Teens that live in a two-parent home are more likely to report a positive family experience than teens living in one-parent homes. Boys were also more likely than girls to report a positive family experience.



Overall my family experience has been good

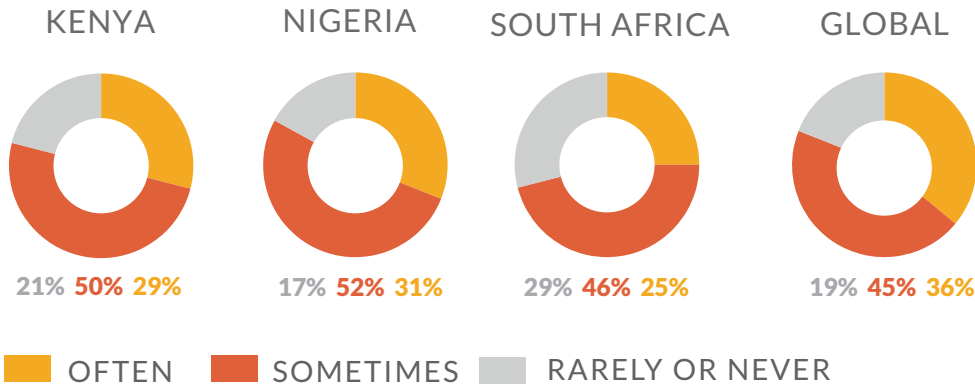


Teens Trust Family

We gathered some practical insight into teens' closeness to their parents by asking them about the frequency of important conversations. Almost **8 in 10** teens in Africa (78%) say they sometimes or often talk to their parents about issues that really matter to them, which aligns with the global average. However, South African teens are less likely to be having these conversations frequently.

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

I talk to my parents/guardians about issues that really matter to me



Teens tell us **they turn to family more often than any other source for guidance** on some of life's most important topics such as what is right and wrong. Teens in South Africa are more likely than teens around the world to say they lean on family for guidance on morality. Religious leaders or texts are a distant second.

RIGHT AND WRONG CONVERSATIONS

Where I go most often for information or guidance about right and wrong

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS **48%**
Global average: 50%
- 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS **16%**
- 3 FRIENDS/PEERS **12%**
- 4 ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA **12%**
- 5 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS **9%**
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA **4%**

MEANING OF LIFE CONVERSATIONS

Where I go most often for information or guidance about meaning of life

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS **38%**
Global average: 41%
- 2 SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE **20%**
- 3 FRIENDS/PEERS **13%**
- 4 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS **12%**
- 5 OFFLINE MEDIA **9%**
- 6 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS **8%**



Go to family for guidance about right & wrong

KENYA

42%

NIGERIA

48%

SOUTH AFRICA

53%

GLOBAL

50%

Family also remains the primary source of guidance for teens when they wonder about the meaning of life. Social media or other online sources come in second, with religious leaders or texts falling much lower on the list of influences for this topic.

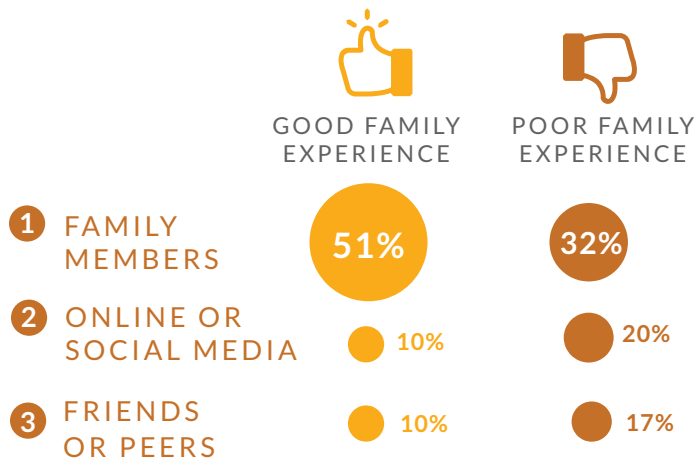
Influences by Family Experience

However, the influence of family as a guide decreases for teens who report negative family experiences. Around **1 in 5** teens in Africa say their family experience overall has not been good. These teens consult their parents much less for guidance on morality or the meaning of life and turn more to social media or friends and peers.

1 IN 5 TEENS REPORT THAT THEIR FAMILY EXPERIENCE HAS NOT BEEN GOOD

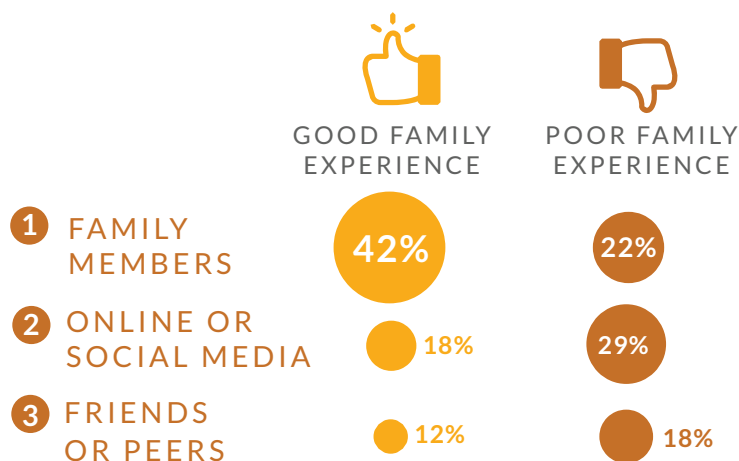
RIGHT AND WRONG CONVERSATIONS

Where I go most often for information or guidance about what is right or wrong:



MEANING OF LIFE CONVERSATIONS

Where I go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life:

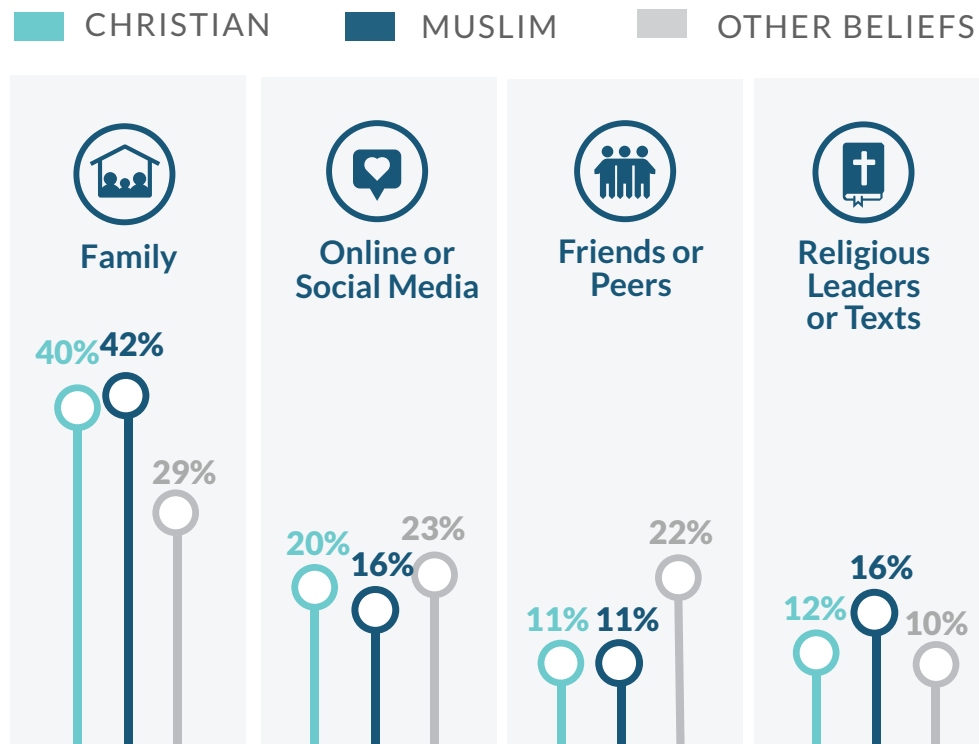


The Influence of Religion

A teen's influences look a little different depending on their religious beliefs. Muslims and Christians are the most likely to be turning to their family for information on the meaning of life. In contrast, teens of other beliefs are twice as likely to go to their friends or peers for this information and also are the most likely to say they rely on social media or other online sources.

PRIMARY INFLUENCES BY RELIGION

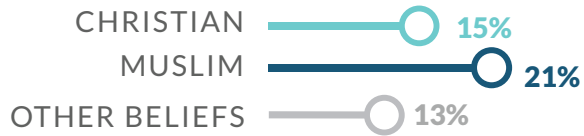
Where I go most often for guidance on the meaning of life:



As compared with other teens, Muslims are the most likely to be consulting religious leaders or religious texts for guidance on what is right and wrong. But still just 1 in 5 Muslims say this is their primary source for this information.

INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

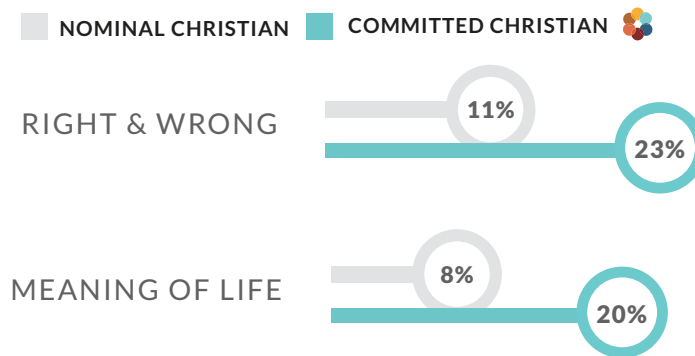
Consult religious leaders or religious texts most often for guidance about what is right and wrong



A teen's committedness to their faith also makes a difference in where they turn for advice. **Committed Christians are more than twice as likely as Nominal Christians to be turning to their pastors or Bibles for guidance on the two areas we asked them about.**

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

Turn to pastors or Bibles for information or guidance about...



Conclusion

As today's teens navigate life's complex issues and questions, the voices they are listening to are critical. The sources teens trust and turn to shed insight on what they will believe. And what you believe has profound implications for how you will behave.

- **PARENTS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.** Encouragingly, teens report a positive family experience and parents are their go-to guides for some of life's most important questions. Parents should not take lightly the privilege they have of speaking into their child's life and sharing truth in love.
- **SCRIPTURE AND THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ARE NOT A PRIMARY INFLUENCE, EVEN FOR CHRISTIAN TEENS.** Committed Christian young people are looking to their pastors or Bibles for guidance more than nominal Christians, but God's Word is not the first place they go for counsel. Since we know that family is a trusted guide in young people's lives, how can we equip parents to disciple their children and teens within the home?
- **STRONG COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL.** It is encouraging to see that teens say they have close friendships in addition to family relationships. Having people who know them well and can support them as they face challenges is crucial. How can we continue to encourage teens to connect and share authentically with the trusted people in their lives?



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

AFRICA REPORT

What We Discovered



A large number of teens are struggling with their mental health, specifically reporting loneliness, high anxiety, and depression. **South Africa and Nigeria** are in the top 5 countries in our global study for teens to report experiencing **loneliness**.

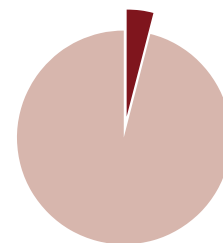


1 in 4

teens in Africa (24%) report having **had suicidal thoughts** within the last three months.

4% of teens

reported that they actually **attempted to take their own life**.



55%

of teens say they have viewed **pornography** recently, which is above the global average for this generation.



Compared to boys, **girls are struggling much more** with their mental health **in every area**.

1 in 4

teens in **Kenya** report recently using **recreational drugs**, making them the **top country in our global study** to report this.



45% of unmarried teens have been **sexually active** in the past three months, with African countries being in the **top 4 globally** to report this.



Prayer and Scripture engagement are two spiritual disciplines that are observed to **make a positive**

difference in the extent to which young people struggle.

Mental Health

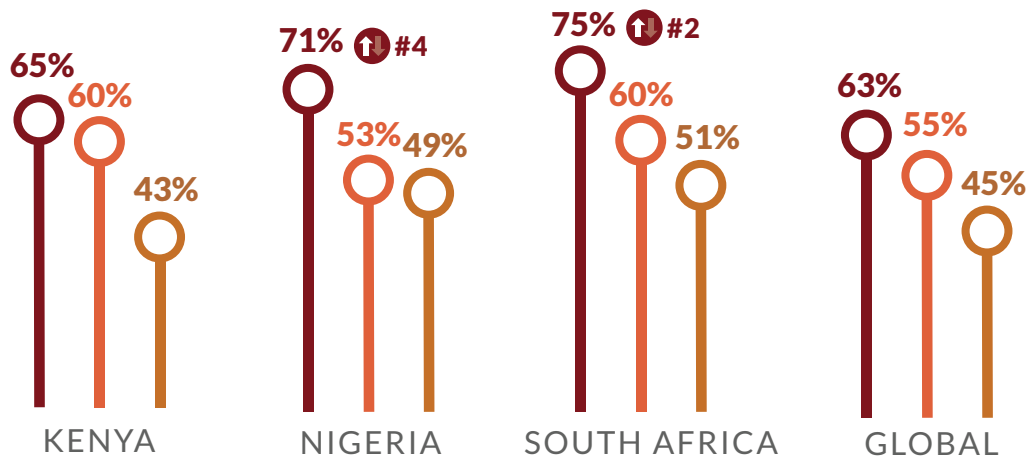
We asked teens to tell us about their personal experiences and struggles within the past three months of their lives. Data was collected between February-March 2020, meaning that teens were reflecting on life before experiencing widespread effects from the coronavirus pandemic which resulted in national lockdowns and quarantines.

Teens in Africa were up front in telling us that they are dealing with some serious personal struggles. **Most teens in Africa reported feelings of loneliness; over half reported high anxiety; and almost half reported depression**¹. South Africa and Nigeria specifically were among the top four countries with the loneliest teens in our global study.

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

Within the past three months, I have experienced:

■ LONELINESS ■ HIGH ANXIETY ■ DEPRESSION



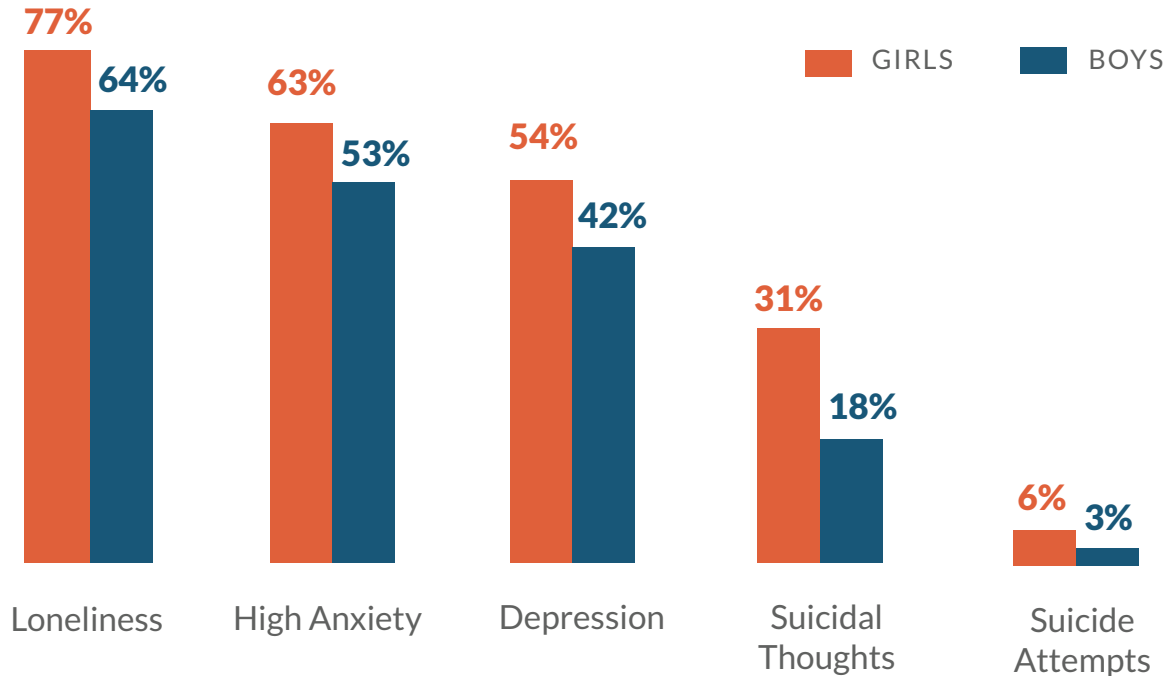
An undeniable difference in the data emerged when looking at the results by gender. **Teen girls are struggling much more** than teen boys when it comes to their mental health in every area we asked about. The same trend was observed on a global level as well.

↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

¹ Note that these are not necessarily clinical levels of depression or anxiety. Teens interpreted for themselves the terms provided and self-reported if they felt they had experienced them.

GIRLS STRUGGLE MORE

Within the past three months, I have experienced:



Suicide

We asked teens to self-report if they had, within the last three months, experienced suicidal thoughts or made a suicide attempt. Of the 20 countries in our global study, South Africa ranked in the top five for suicidal thoughts.

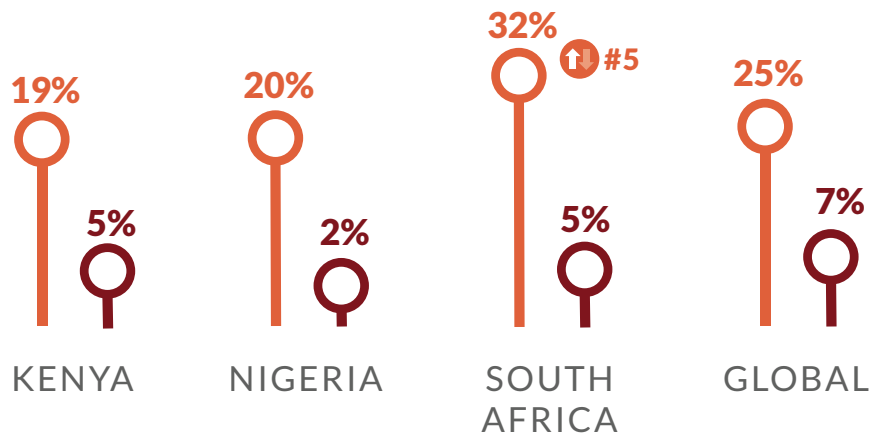
Around **1 in 3** South African teens reported this. In contrast, Kenya and Nigeria were below the global average for suicidal ideation, with Nigeria specifically having the fewest numbers of suicide attempts in our global study.

1 IN 3
SOUTH
AFRICAN
TEENS
HAVE HAD
SUICIDAL
THOUGHTS
RECENTLY

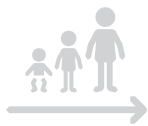
SUICIDE RISK BY COUNTRY

Within the past three months, I have experienced:

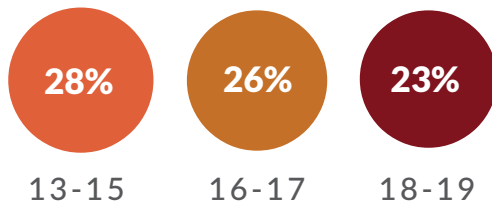
■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS ■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



Suicide thoughts were seen to trend by age, with younger teens being at more risk than older teens. Girls are also more likely than boys to report suicidal thoughts and attempts¹.

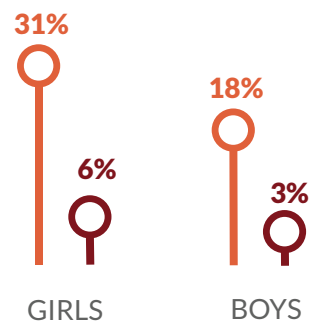


SUICIDAL THOUGHTS BY AGE



SUICIDE RISK BY GENDER

■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS ■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



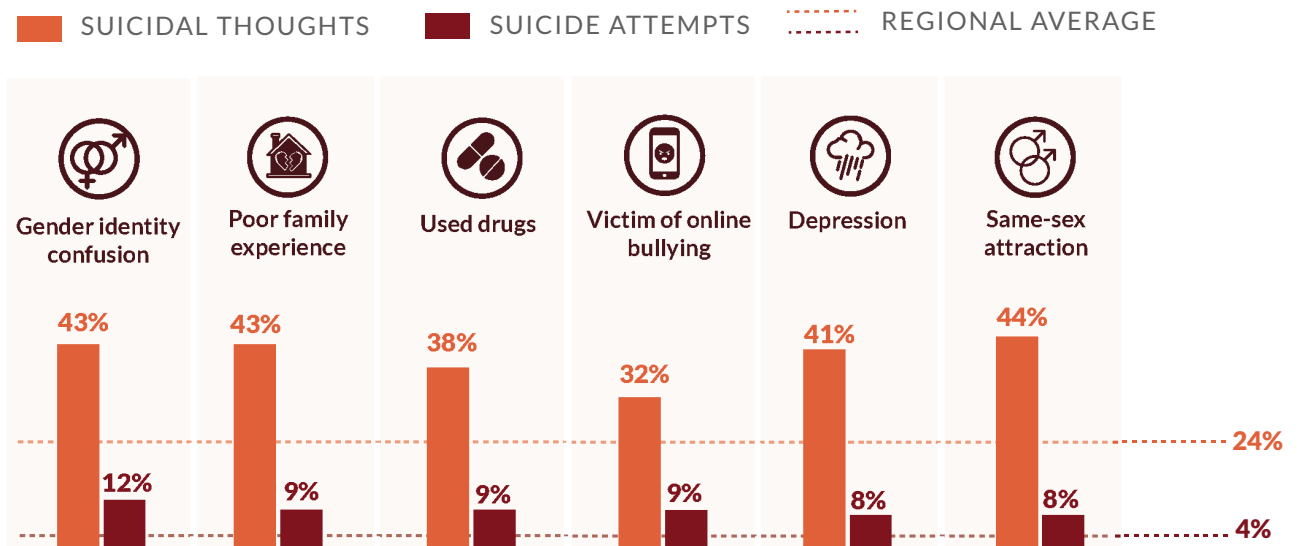
↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

¹ Note that the number of suicide attempts in our study is small, so related percentages should be carefully considered.

Research literature on this topic points to many factors that can increase a young person’s risk for suicide including LGBTQ issues, substance abuse, bullying, and symptoms of anxiety or depression¹. Our research revealed similar areas of vulnerability for teens.

Teens who report gender identity confusion were three times as likely to have recently attempted suicide than the average. Other factors that were observed to accompany higher suicide risk included a poor family experience, recreational drug usage, being the victim of online bullying, depression and recently experiencing same-sex attraction.

6 FACTORS THAT CORRELATE WITH HIGHER SUICIDE RISK



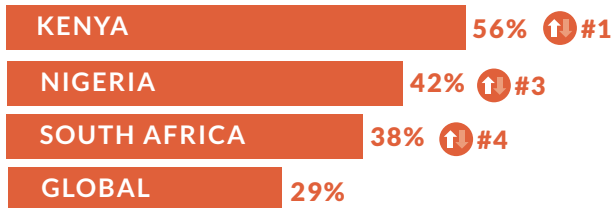
Suicide attempts, like suicidal thoughts, fall on a continuum from reckless behaviors that show a low value for life to planned and pointed attempts. It is not necessarily one event that triggers teens to try to take their life, but could be a series of small steps and thoughts that each build on the other.

Regardless of the specific circumstances, this data shows that **some teens are in seriously dark places that are driving them towards desperate action**. We should be heartbroken for young people who feel meaningless enough about life to want to end it. When it comes to suicide, we are not looking at numbers on a page or percentages of a sample—but at real people’s lives. **Which means any number is too many.**

¹ CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, Multiple Cause of Death files 2015-2017. AmericasHealthRankings.org, Accessed 2020.

Sexuality

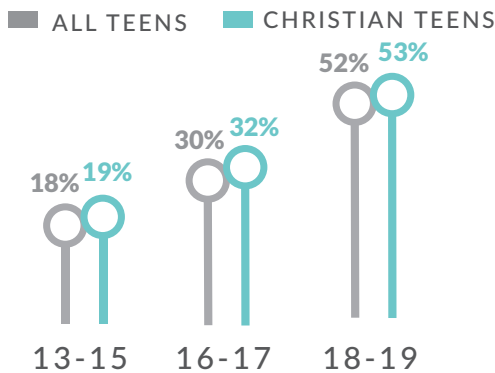
SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY COUNTRY



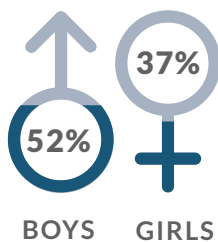
↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES



SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY AGE



SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY GENDER



The teenage years can be a time of experimentation and include an evolving understanding of one's sexuality and attractions. These were topics we specifically asked teens to share about, giving us a deeper look at their personal experiences. **Rates of sexual activity for unmarried teens in Africa are some of the highest in our global study.**

This may represent a broad spectrum of behaviors, but in answering this question teens defined for themselves what it means to be sexually active. Any teens who also reported being married were excluded to ensure this statistic represented only sex outside the context of marriage.

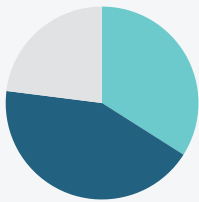
Sexual activity was nearly three times higher among older teens (18-19 years old) than younger teens (13-15 years old). However, **nearly 1 in 5 teens under the age of 16 still reported recent sexual activity.** Boys are more sexually active than girls and Christian teens were even seen to be slightly more sexually active than other teens.

We also asked teens to share their viewpoint on whether having sex before marriage is acceptable. Responses varied widely by country with Nigeria and Kenya much less likely to agree and South Africa matching the global average. However, this African generation still displays a degree of uncertainty on the topic. Around half of Nigerian teens and almost 3 in 5 Kenyan teens say pre-marital sex is ok or say they are unsure.

Is it ok to have sex before marriage?

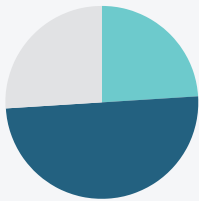
● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

KENYA



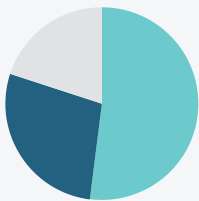
23% 42% 34%

NIGERIA



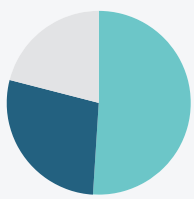
26% 50% 24%

SOUTH AFRICA



20% 28% 52%

GLOBAL

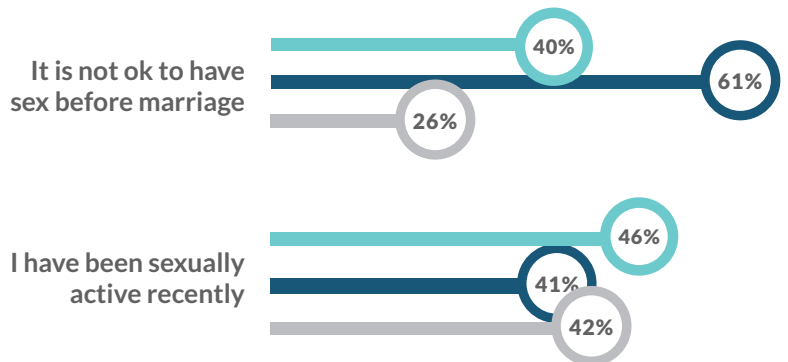


21% 28% 51%

Perhaps unsurprisingly, a teen's viewpoint on this topic is a bit different based on their religion. Muslim teens are the most opposed to sex before marriage as compared with Christians or teens of other beliefs. However when it comes to their actual behavior, there is very little difference observed across religions for recent sexual activity.

VIEWPOINTS BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM OTHER BELIEFS

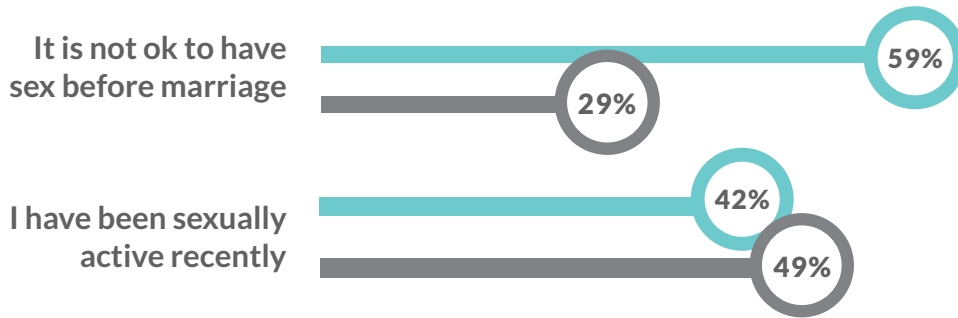


Christians are the most likely to be sexually active of any religious group, but we were curious if Committed Christians would prove to have different beliefs or behaviors. The data revealed that many more Committed Christian teens oppose pre-marital sex as compared with Nominal Christians.

However, Committed Christians are not making vastly different choices in this area. They are only slightly less likely than Nominal Christians to say they have been sexually active recently.

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIAN 
■ NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Pornography

Teens in Africa are among some of the most likely in the world to say they have recently used pornography. South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria all rank in the top 6 countries globally to report this.

PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY COUNTRY

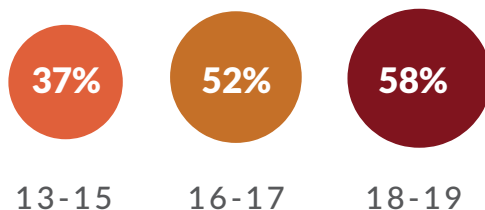


 GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

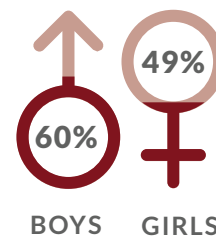
Pornography usage is seen to be elevated in the lives of older teens versus younger teens and boys more than girls. Teens of other beliefs are much more likely to say they have recently viewed pornography than either Muslims or Christians. But still, more than half of Christian teens report pornography usage.



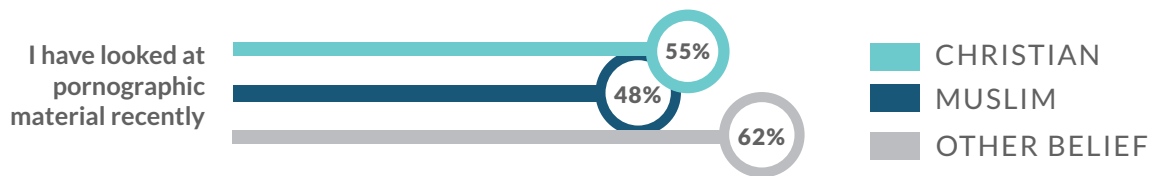
PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY AGE



PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY GENDER



PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY RELIGION

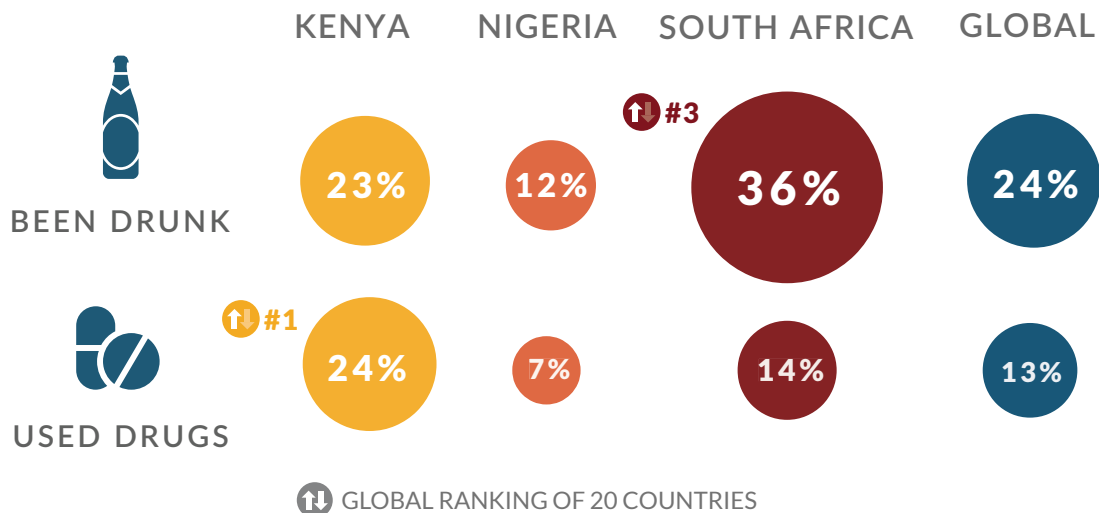


Other Struggles

Our research revealed several other challenges teens in Africa are facing. Kenya is the top country globally for teens to report recently having used recreational drugs. South Africa is in the top three countries globally for young people to report having recently been drunk. In contrast, Nigerian teens were half as likely as the global average to report either of these behaviors.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE

Within the past three months I have...



The Power of Prayer and Scripture Engagement

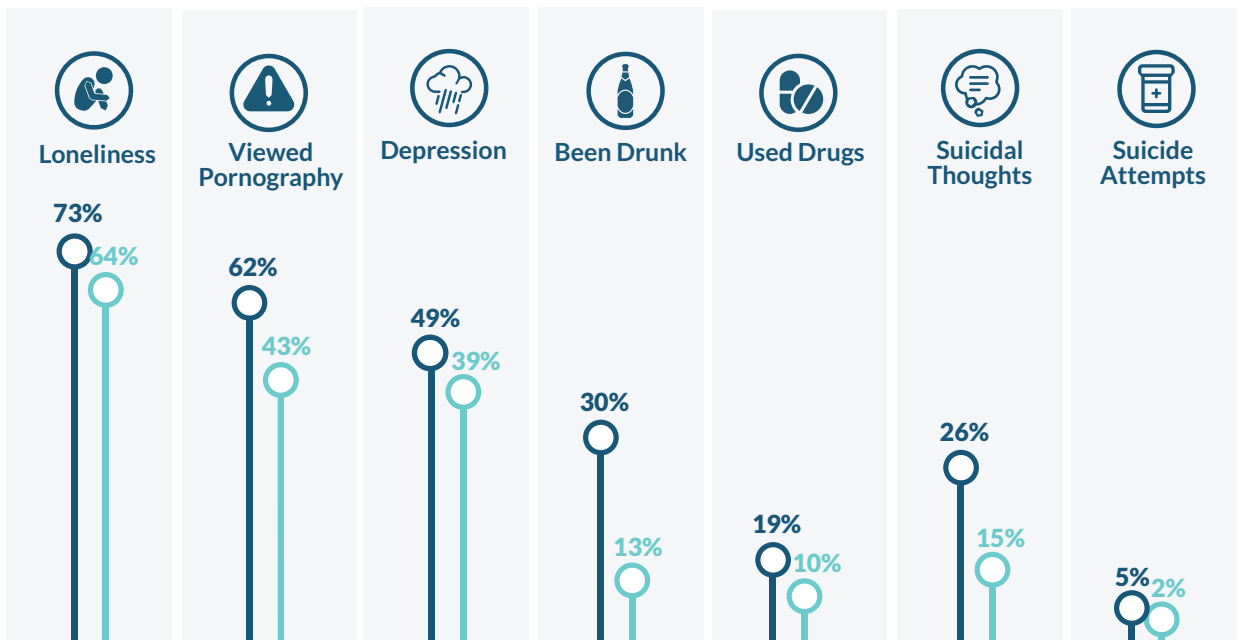
Teens in Africa are clearly struggling in many areas. However, the data reveals that there is real hope to be found. When we narrowed our view to Christian teens who are committed to their faith—the picture looked quite different.

Teens who hold to the core beliefs of Christianity and display the spiritual disciplines of regular Bible reading and prayer have very different lived experiences. **Committed Christian teens are less lonely, less depressed, less suicidal, and less likely to be engaged in drinking, drug usage, and pornography.** This points to the power of Scripture engagement and prayer in the lives of teens to help them combat their temptations and struggles.

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE LESS

■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS ■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS 🌸

Within the past three months, I have experienced:



Conclusion

This data can be a sad picture of how life looks when seeing from the eyes of young people. The daily experiences and struggles teens face can seem overwhelming, but it is important to start by listening and understanding before we turn to action. Here are some things to consider:

- **TOO MANY TEENS ARE FEELING ALONE AND HOPELESS.** Many African teens are incredibly lonely, and for some suicidal thoughts are also a serious issue. How can we help young people feel seen, supported, and encouraged with the hope the Gospel holds for their lives?
- **GOD'S WORD MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.** Teens who are reading the Bible and drawing near to God through prayer are experiencing life differently than those who are not as committed to their faith. How can we help teens develop these spiritual disciplines for themselves and allow Scripture to guide their actions and choices?
- **GIRLS AND BOYS NEED SUPPORT IN DIFFERENT WAYS.** The differences in personal struggle rates by gender are undeniable. Girls are struggling much more with aspects of their mental health and boys are specifically struggling in the area of sexuality and pornography alongside high rates of loneliness, anxiety and depression. Consider the ways teens need to be uniquely discipled and how we can raise up mentors for this generation to walk alongside them.
- **TEENS NEED DISCIPLESHIP IN THE AREA OF SEXUALITY.** African teens are the most likely of their global generation to be engaging in sex outside the context of marriage. And even though Committed Christians demonstrate an understanding that this behavior is wrong, they are not making different choices in this area. How can we equip young people to apply a biblical viewpoint on this topic to their daily choices?
- **PORNOGRAPHY IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.** This is a significant issue for today's teens around the world and in Africa specifically. A teen's religious beliefs do not protect them from sexual temptation and those urges can be so easily met thanks to the quick access the internet provides. How can we address the pervasive issue of pornography usage that has ensnared this next generation?

DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

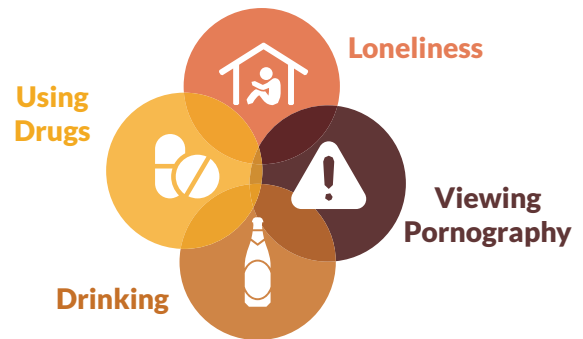
AFRICA REPORT

What We Discovered



African teens are spending an average of **7 hours and 50 minutes** online daily, which is a little more than the global average.

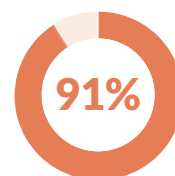
Teens who are **heavy internet users** (10+ hours daily) are **struggling more** in certain areas:



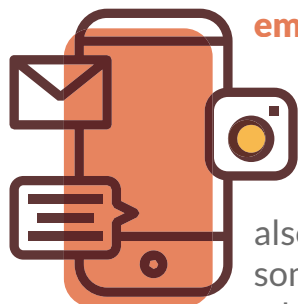
Teens in Africa are slightly higher than the global average to report that they **have been bullied by someone online**, and teens in **Kenya and Nigeria** are in the top 4 countries globally for teens to admit they have been personally hurtful to someone online recently.



African teens are spending most of their online time **talking and chatting or using social media** and are spending more time on these activities than their global peers.

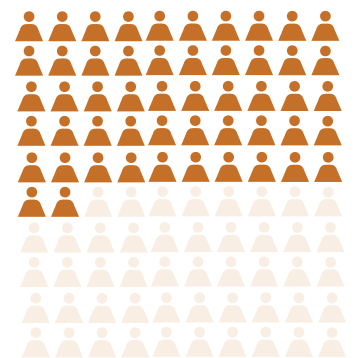


91% of teens say they **watch videos every day.**



Teens have **mixed emotions about social media**, with most saying it **contributes to their life satisfaction** but many also reporting it sometimes or often makes them feel sad, anxious, or depressed.

52% of teens say they spend **more than an hour on social media daily.**



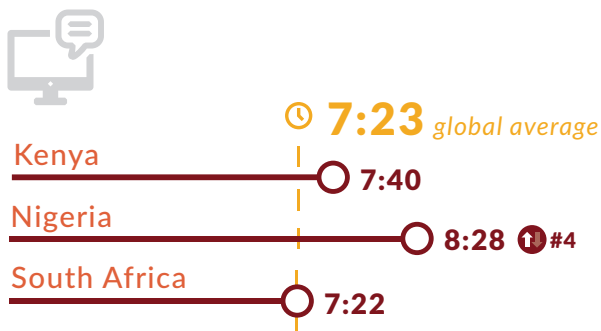
Teens and the Internet

This is the most digitally connected generation the world has ever seen. Most teens grew up on the Internet, have had smartphones in their hand from a young age, and have never known a world without social media.

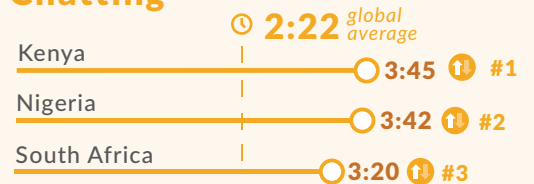
Being internet-connected was a requirement for participation in this research study. Note that these results do not reflect all teens in Africa, especially in more rural areas not represented by our sample of Internet-connected teens.

However, this research does illuminate the way forward. As more and more areas come online, this is the world the next generation is entering into and the challenges they may be facing as they do.

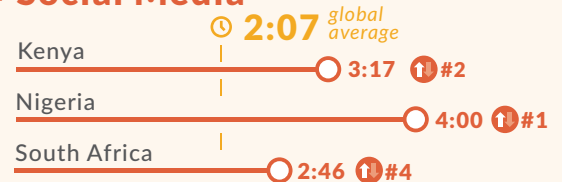
TOTAL TIME ONLINE DAILY



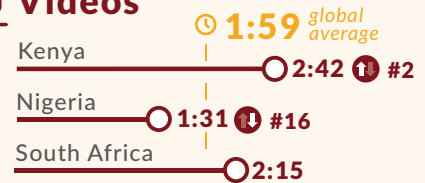
Chatting



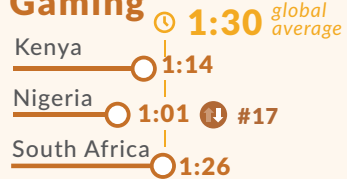
Social Media



Videos



Gaming



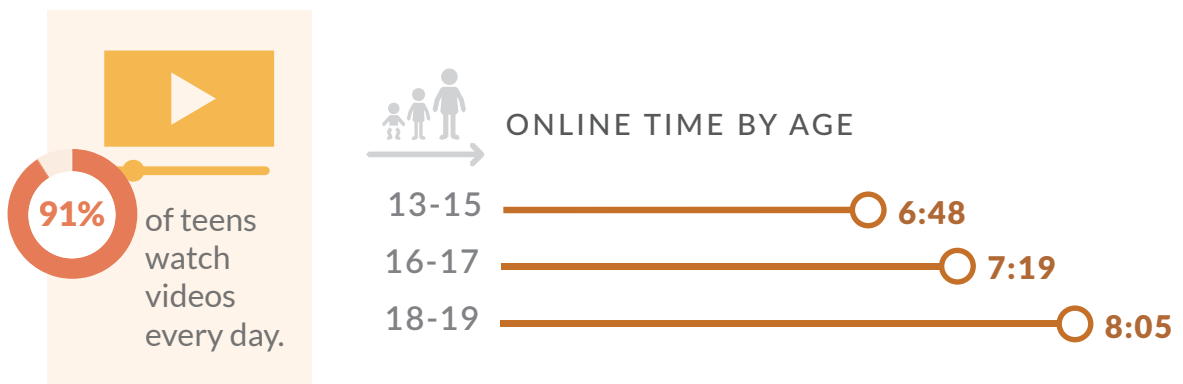
GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

Teens we surveyed in Africa are spending an average of 7 hours and 50 minutes online daily, which is slightly more than the global average¹. Teens in Nigeria are spending more time online than teens in other African countries and ranked fourth overall in our global survey of 20 countries.

¹ Note that data was collected between February-March 2020, before schools transitioned to virtual learning due to the coronavirus pandemic. Teens were not specifically asked to exclude school activities from total time spent online daily, so some may have included it in their estimate.

What are teens doing in all those hours they spend online? Primarily talking, messaging, or video chatting or using social media. **African teens surveyed lead the way globally in the amount of time spent chatting online, exceeding the global average by more than an hour.** In addition, teens in Nigeria spend twice as much time on social media daily than the global average for their generation.

Nigeria claims the top spot globally for social media usage, with Kenyan teens ranking second and South African teens ranking fourth. Trends in online time were also seen by age, with older teens spending an additional hour or more online daily than younger teens.



Total time online is not the only way to understand a teen’s digital habits. The activities they regularly return to also paint a picture of their online engagement. 91% of teens in Africa say they watch videos every day on platforms including Netflix and YouTube. This same trend was observed for teens globally, with nearly all teens in our 20-country study saying they watch videos daily.

Teens and Social Media

More than 4 in 5 African teens are using social media daily, saying it helps them connect with friends and family and stay informed. But only around half (52%) said they spend more than an hour on these platforms every day. In addition, teens responded with mixed emotions about their experiences.

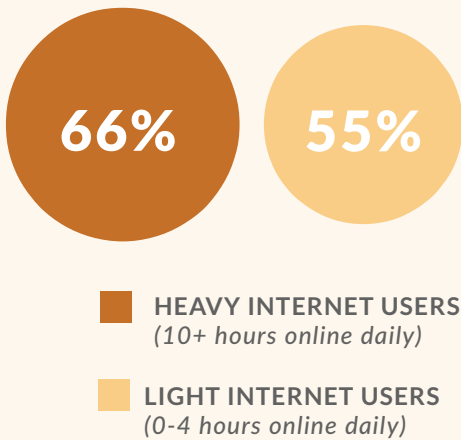


Reasons I use social media:

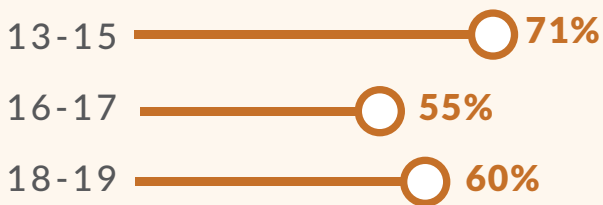
1. Connect with friends and family
2. Help me stay informed

Social media helps me feel satisfied with my life

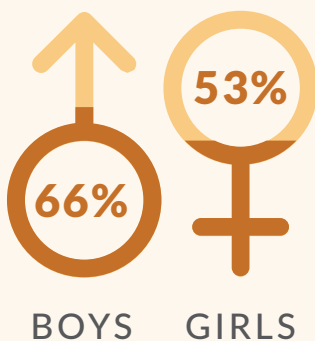
RESPONSE BY TIME ONLINE



RESPONSE BY AGE



RESPONSE BY GENDER



Social media helps me feel satisfied with my life



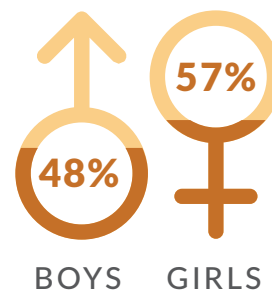
Social media sometimes or often makes me feel sad, anxious, or depressed



Teens who spend a lot of time on social media daily report that it helps them feel satisfied with their lives more than teens who spend less time on these platforms. Younger teens are also more satisfied as compared with older teens; and boys more so than girls.

Girls are more negatively affected by social media than boys, being more likely to say it generates negative emotions in their life.

Social media sometimes or often makes me feel sad, anxious, a depressed



The Influence of the Internet

We received a wide variety of responses from teens regarding their usage habits and time online, prompting us to categorize respondents as light internet users (0-4 hours online daily); moderate internet users (4.1-9.9 hours daily); and heavy internet users (10+ hours online daily).

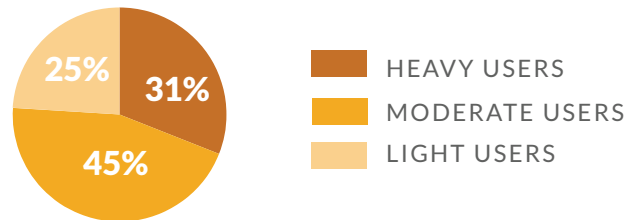
We immediately saw extremes between the categories. Among light internet users, the average daily time online was 3 hours. In contrast, heavy internet users average 14 hours online every day.

TIME SPENT ONLINE

AVERAGE TIME ONLINE DAILY

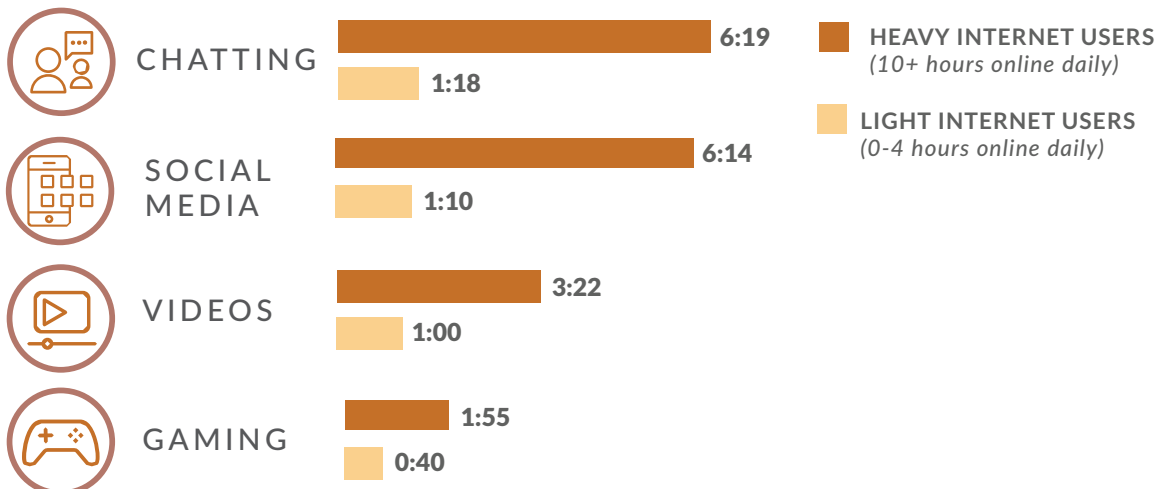


CATEGORY OF INTERNET USER



Light and heavy internet users had the same priority order of online activities, but spent vastly different amounts of time on each. For example, heavy users are spending around 12.5 hours on chatting or social media each day, as compared with around 2.5 hours on these activities among light users.

TIME SPENT BY ACTIVITY

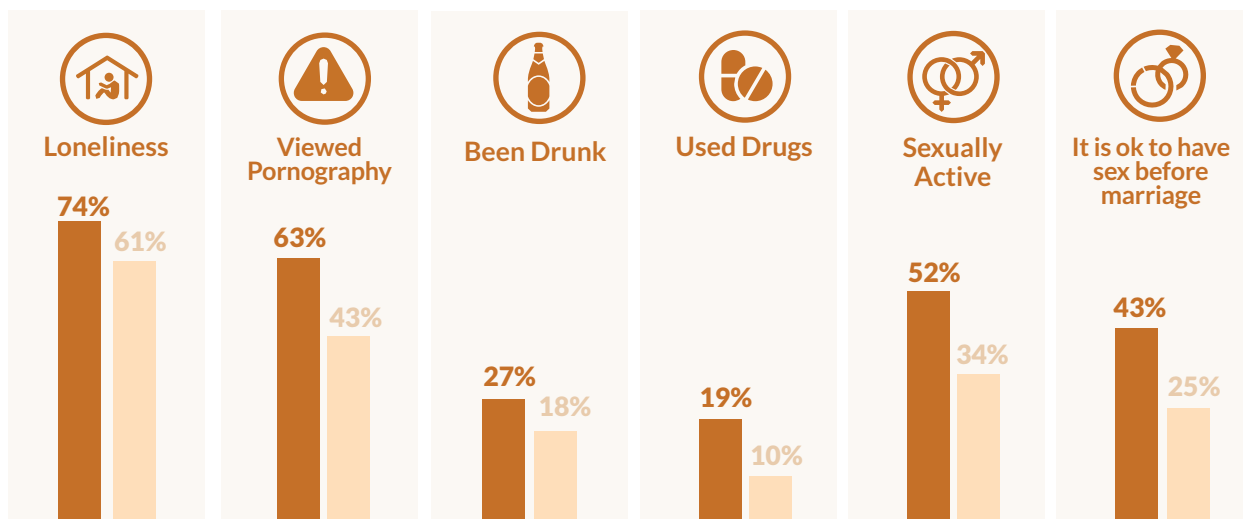


PERSONAL STRUGGLES BY TIME ONLINE

■ HEAVY INTERNET USERS
(10+ hours online daily)

■ LIGHT INTERNET USERS
(0-4 hours online daily)

Within the past three months, I have experienced:



Heavy internet users also display some different behaviors than light internet users. They are more likely to report feeling lonely, viewing pornography, and other concerning choices including drinking and using drugs. In addition, heavy internet users are more likely than light internet users to be sexually active and to say that it is acceptable to have sex before marriage.

Teens in Africa are not the only ones navigating a complex relationship between their in-person experiences and their digital lives. This same trend was observed globally across the 20 countries surveyed. These behaviors as well as other mental health concerns surfaced across the world when paired with time spent online. And in other countries we saw even more pronounced differences in teens' values and views when contrasting light and heavy internet users.

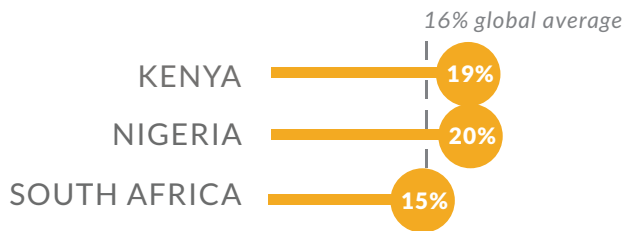
Obviously, these findings are deeply concerning. **However, the nature of the relationship between time online and teens' personal struggles is far from clear.** This data shows that there is some kind of connection between them, but does not suggest that one leads to the other. It is possible that heavy internet usage contributes to these personal struggles in the lives of young people. On the other hand, teens who are already struggling may be turning to their digital devices as a way of comfort or escape.

Hurtful Interactions

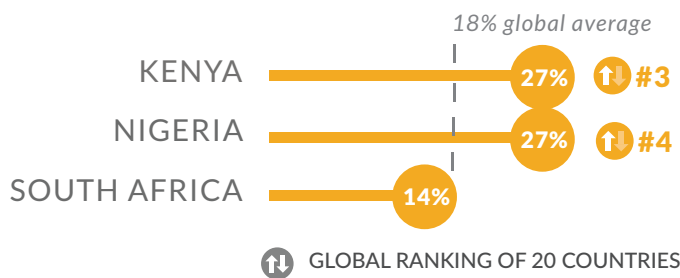
The internet is not always a safe place for teens to be. Our global study found that **1 in 6 teens say they have recently been the victim of online bullying, with some African countries reporting higher rates of this.** Some teens were also transparent in telling us that they too have been personally hurtful to someone online recently. Teens in Kenya and Nigeria were in the top four countries globally to report this. Of African countries surveyed, South Africa was the least likely to report these kinds of negative experiences.

ONLINE BULLYING

I have been bullied online recently



I have been personally hurtful to someone online recently

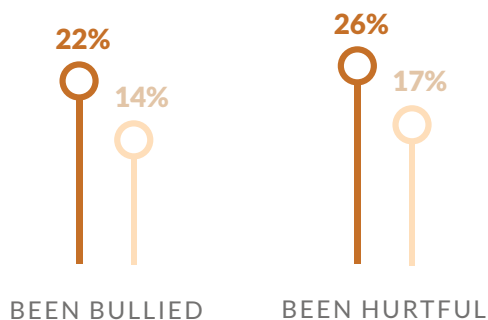


Perhaps unsurprisingly, time online contributes heavily to whether or not hurtful interactions take place. Heavy internet users are much more likely than light internet users to report that they have been bullied online or have been personally hurtful to others.

Technology can be a popular place to lay the blame for the problems in young people's lives, but we also cannot forget that the teen years are already filled with hormonal changes, social upsets, and other disruptions that can all contribute to a poor mental health outlook.

BULLYING BY TIME ONLINE

HEAVY INTERNET USERS (10+ hours online daily) | LIGHT INTERNET USERS (0-4 hours online daily)



Time spent on digital devices is just one more element in a complex combination of factors affecting the lives and personal experiences of today's teens.

Conclusion


Constant connectedness to digital platforms is the way of life for today's young people. Now that we know where they are and what they are doing digitally, how do we engage them effectively with the Gospel message they need to hear? Here are some ideas to consider:

- **AFRICAN TEENS ARE SPENDING MOST OF THEIR ONLINE TIME CHATTING AND TALKING OR USING SOCIAL MEDIA,** with some teens spending a lot of time daily on these platforms. How can we empower them to be having meaningful, thought-provoking conversations with their peers that authentically integrate their faith with life concerns? In addition, how can we as the church engage in meaningful, thought-provoking conversations with teens in their online spaces?
- **VIDEOS ARE PART OF EVERY TEEN'S DAILY LIFE** and can be a powerful vehicle to reach young people. Teens are constantly returning to platforms like YouTube and Netflix and watching video content every day. How can we use this appealing medium to reach young people for Christ?
- **SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE A PLACE TO MEET AND CONNECT WITH TEENS** in the course of their daily lives. However, keep in mind that usage is varied. Some teens are using social media heavily, but around half say they spend an hour or less on these platforms daily. In addition, teens are also divided on whether or not social media is helping or hurting them, with girls more negatively affected by it than boys. Consider the content you are putting out for them and how you can help them navigate their complex relationship with their digital devices.
- **THOSE WHO ARE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ONLINE MAY BE STRUGGLING DEEPLY** and making some poor choices. Heavy internet users often feel alone and some may be turning to things like drugs or alcohol as forms of escape. How can we come alongside these young people and encourage them to make healthy choices in the midst of the circumstances they face?
- **TEENS ARE NOT ALWAYS USING THE INTERNET IN POSITIVE WAYS.** Some African teens are aware that their digital interactions are sometimes personally hurtful towards others and those who spend a lot of time online are more likely to report these negative experiences. How can we teach young people to treat others with kindness and use their influence and access to spread the Good News to those they encounter on digital platforms?

IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

AFRICA REPORT

What We Discovered



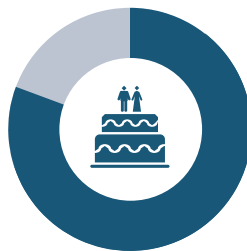
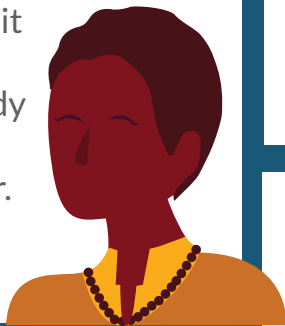
72% of teens in Africa believe gender is primarily based on **the sex a person is born as**.



23% say it is based on **personal feelings, desires, or sexual attractions**.



Girls are more likely than boys to say that **gender can be someone's choice** and that it is acceptable to change your body to become a different gender.



4 in 5 teens in Africa believe **marriage should be a lifelong commitment**, but fewer believe marriage must be exclusively between a man and woman.

African teens generally **oppose** the idea of someone **changing their body to become a different gender**, but teens in South Africa are more approving of this.



Almost 1 in 5 teens in Africa report having felt **sexually attracted to someone of the same gender** within the past three months.



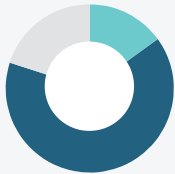
Social media or other online sources are the **top influence** when it comes to conversations **around gender, sexuality, and sexual issues**.

Gender Identity

Is it ok for someone to change their body to become a different gender?

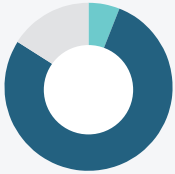
● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

KENYA



21% 65% 15%

NIGERIA



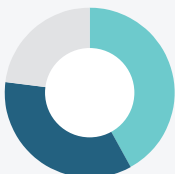
17% 78% 6%

SOUTH AFRICA



23% 37% 40%

GLOBAL

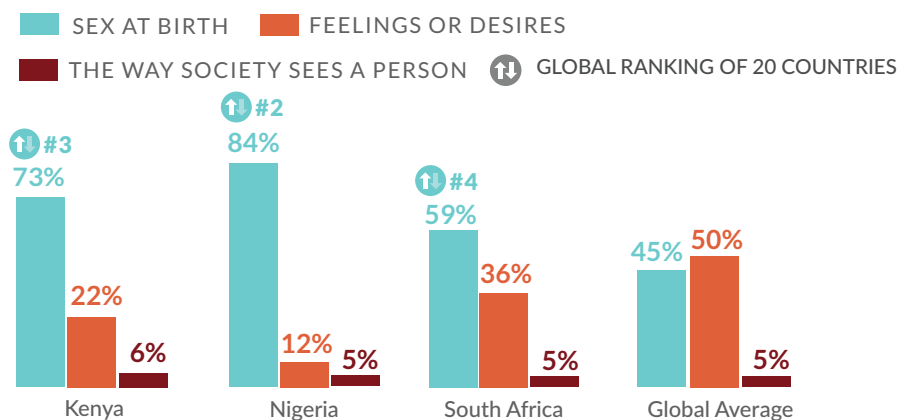


24% 34% 42%

Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa were among the top 4 countries globally with the **most traditional viewpoint on gender identity**. Nigeria was the leading country for teens to say that gender is primarily based on a person's sex at birth. In contrast, teens globally were more likely to say that gender is a choice—something that can be self-determined according to personal feelings, desires, or sexual attractions.

VIEW OF GENDER BY COUNTRY

Gender is primarily based on:

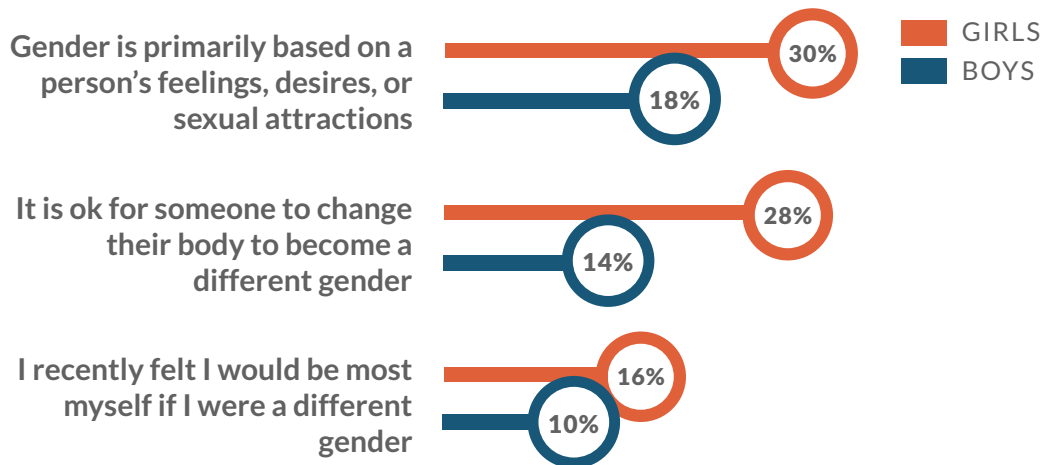


Teens in Nigeria and Kenya strongly disagree that a person should be able to change their body to become a different gender. Teens in South Africa are more accepting of gender change overall and align more closely with the global response of teens in other countries.

Girls were observed to have a less traditional view of gender than boys do. More girls believe gender is primarily based on a person's feelings or desires as compared with significantly fewer boys who say the same.

Girls are also twice as likely as boys to say it is acceptable for someone to change their body to become a different gender. Finally, girls are more likely than boys to say they have recently experienced gender identity confusion.

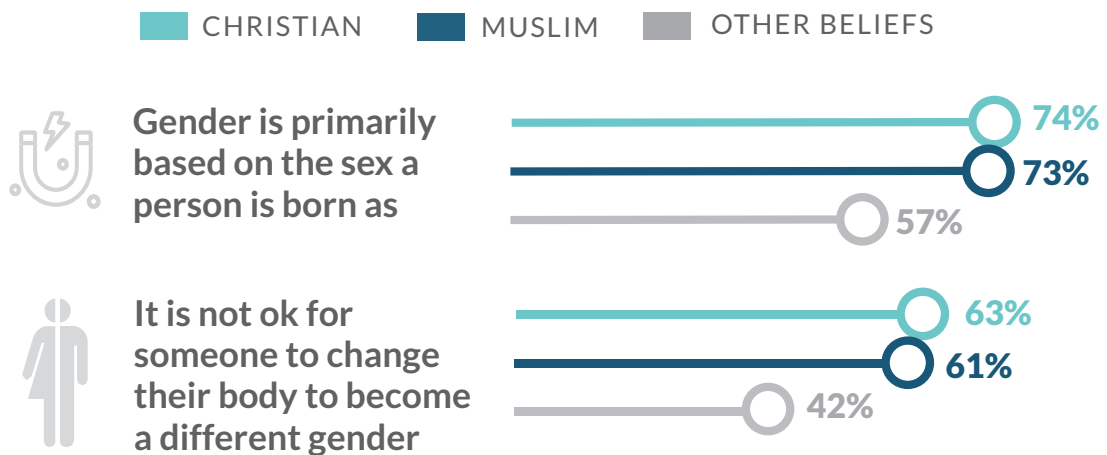
GIRLS RESPOND



The Influence of Religion

A teen's religion is another factor that has a visible impact on their opinions about gender identity. Christian and Muslim teens in Africa agree strongly that gender is primarily based on sex at birth. These groups correspondingly oppose gender change, while teens of other religions or no religion are more approving of this. Committed Christians are also seen to have a different view of gender than Nominal Christians.

GENDER VIEWS BY RELIGION

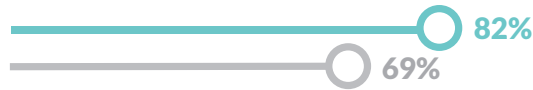


CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIAN  ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Gender is primarily based on the sex you were born as



It is not ok for someone to change their body to become a different gender

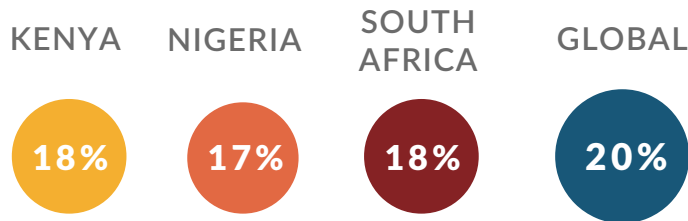


Same-Sex Attraction

Some young people are struggling with their sexual attractions. Nearly 1 in 5 teens in Africa (18%) say they have recently experienced same-sex attraction. This is an issue teens are facing around the world, though rates in Africa are a bit lower than the global average.

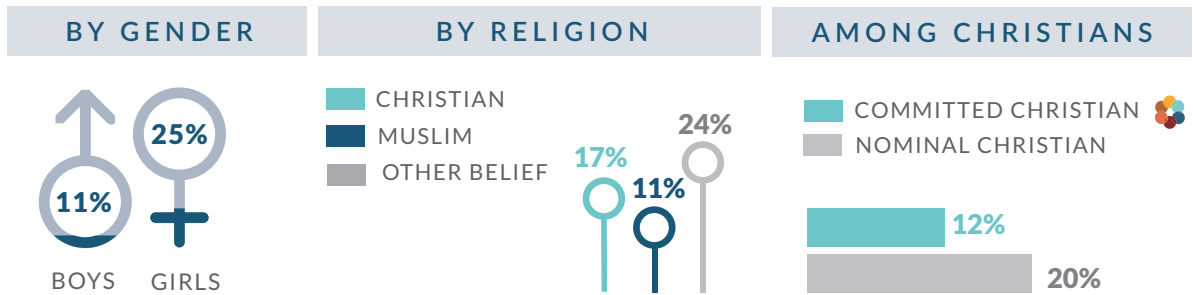
SAME-SEX ATTRACTION BY COUNTRY

Within the past three months, I have experienced same-sex attraction:

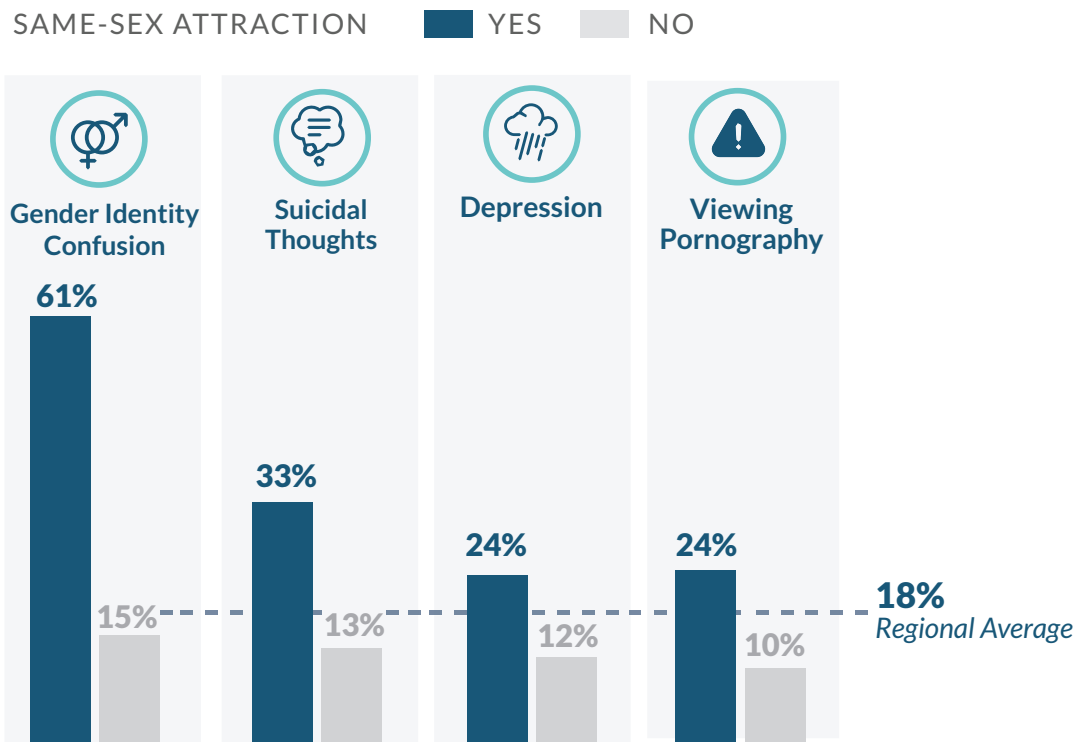


Some teens are struggling more with same-sex attraction than others. For example, **teen girls are twice as likely to report this than teen boys**. Teens of other religions or no religion are much more likely than Christians or Muslims to be facing this. Among Christian teens, Committed Christians were less likely than Nominal Christians to say this is a current struggle for them.

Within the past three months, I have experienced same-sex attraction:



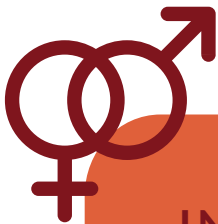
4 CONNECTIONS WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION



Finally, same-sex attraction appears to cluster with other experiences. Many teens who have recently experienced same-sex attraction also report experiencing gender identity confusion, suicidal thoughts, and depression.

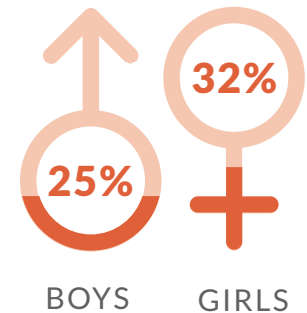
Influences on the Conversation

We specifically asked teens to share with us where they go for guidance about the complex topics of gender, sexuality, and sexual issues. Teens say they look to social media or other online sources the most, with friends and family nearly tying for second place. The influence of religious leaders or texts is very low on the list. Differences were also seen by gender, with girls consulting social media more than boys.



INFLUENCES ON GENDER VIEWS

I go to social media or online sources most often for information on gender and sexuality:



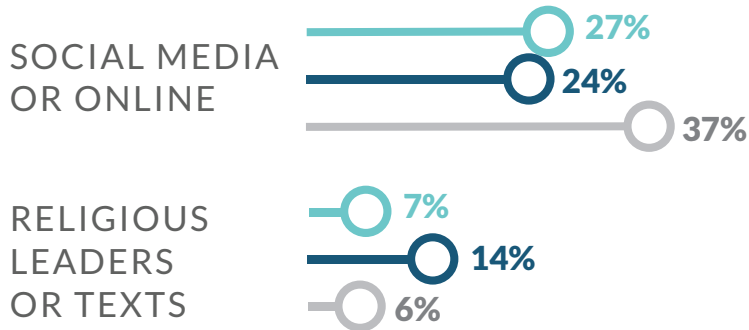
Where I go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality & sexual issues.

- 1 SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE 28%**
Global Average: 36%
- 2 FRIENDS/PEERS 22%**
- 3 FAMILY 21%**
- 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 16%**
- 5 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 7%**
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA 6%**

INFLUENCES BY RELIGION

Where I go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality & sexual issues.

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM OTHER BELIEFS

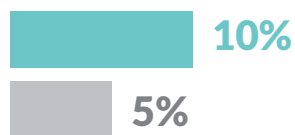


Committed Christians are twice as likely as nominal Christians to be consulting their pastors or Bibles for guidance, but relatively few say this is where they turn most often.

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

Turn to pastors or Bibles most often for information or guidance about gender and sexuality

COMMITTED CHRISTIAN NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



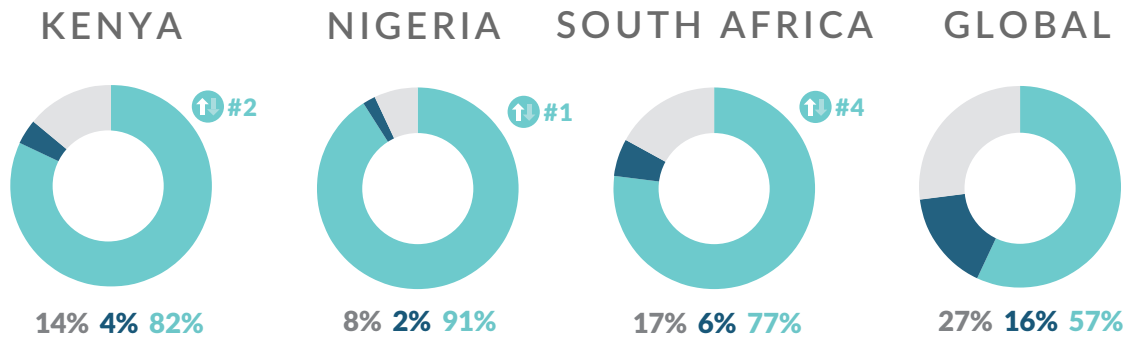
For some teens, questions about gender and sexuality are more urgent and the voices they invite to speak into their lives are different as well. **Those who report experiencing same-sex attraction are much more likely to go to social media or the Internet for counsel (38%) rather than in-person relationships with friends (23%) or family (18%).** Religious leaders and texts have some of the least influence on this topic.

Attitudes Towards Marriage

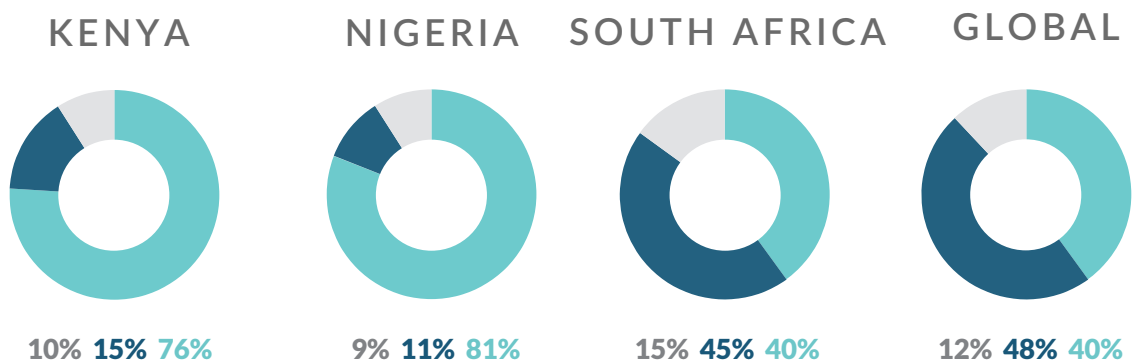
We also investigated teens' beliefs about marriage. When asked if they believe marriage should be a lifelong commitment, teens in Africa responded with a strong yes—much more so than teens around the world. African countries were among the top four globally to hold this viewpoint.

However, when asked if marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman, African teens were less certain. Teens in Nigeria and Kenya still said a strong yes, but teens in South Africa largely disagreed.

Should marriage be a lifelong commitment?



Should marriage be exclusively between a man and a woman?



● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

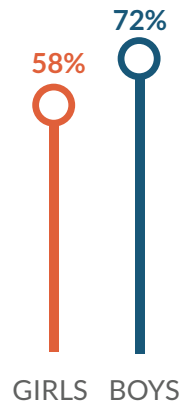
Girls have a slightly different view than boys on some of these questions. While girls and boys agree that marriage should be for life, girls are much more likely than boys to say that marriage does not need to be heterosexual.

Teens of other beliefs display different attitudes towards marriage than either Christians or Muslims. Encouragingly, Committed Christians were seen to have a more scriptural stance on marriage than Nominal Christians.



Marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman:

Yes Response



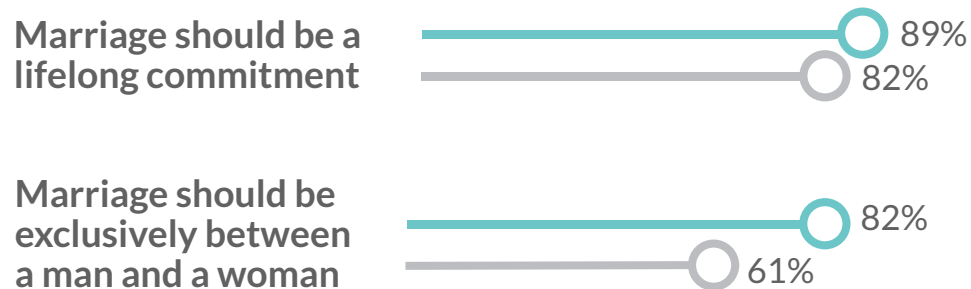
VIEW OF MARRIAGE BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM OTHER BELIEFS



CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND


COMMITTED CHRISTIAN NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Conclusion

A person's opinions do not stay the same forever, but for now we have a good view of what teens in Africa believe on the important topics of gender identity, sexuality, and marriage. In addition, we know where they are turning to for guidance and advice on these matters.

- **TEENS ARE EXPLORING THE TENSIONS OF IDENTITY.** It is critically important to understand and embrace our God-given identity which includes our gender and sexuality. Teens in Africa are holding to the belief that gender is an objective reality, not an individual choice. But the rest of their global generation is not so certain and some topics such as gender change are confusing ones. How can we help teens navigate these topics and bring God's Word to the conversations as they arise?
- **SAME-SEX ATTRACTION IS AN AREA OF CONCERN FOR THIS GENERATION.** Teens in Africa, as well as around the world, are acknowledging having these feelings and may be unsure how to deal with them. We need to be prepared to hear their stories and bring the truth of Scripture to this multifaceted and complex area of their life.
- **THE CONVERSATION ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUALITY IS CONFUSING.** Teens are divided on where to turn for guidance on these topics. Even more concerning, those who are personally dealing with issues like same-sex attraction are pulling back from their family and going to the internet more for advice. How can we ensure these teens have wise counsel and trusted people in their lives to safely discuss their challenges and questions?



GIRLS ARE STRUGGLING MORE WITH THESE TOPICS THAN BOYS. They have a less biblical view of marriage and gender than boys do and are more likely to report personally experiencing same-sex attraction and gender identity confusion. How can we be aware of this and intentional to provide healthy support for girls that guides them to reflect more deeply on what God has to say about these topics?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

AFRICA REPORT

Education

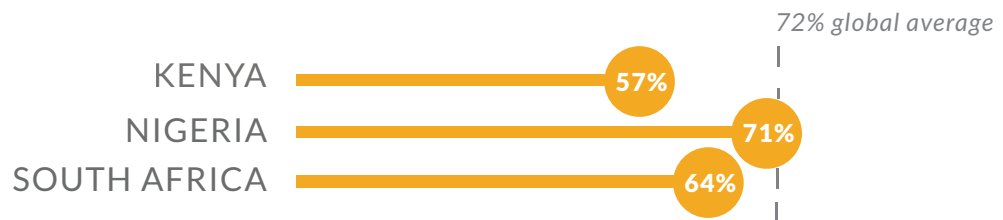
Teens are looking to their future with certainty and hope. This African generation sees education as a pathway to success and is convinced it will have future career opportunities. In addition, an overwhelming number of young people are ready to create their own opportunity with their entrepreneurial spirit.

Most teens agree that education is the primary thing that will guarantee them a better future, although Kenya was the least likely to say this globally. Girls and boys were equally likely to say they value education and girls were actually more likely to say they are currently attending or planning to attend university.

64% OF TEENS IN AFRICA AGREE THAT EDUCATION WILL GUARANTEE THEM A BETTER FUTURE

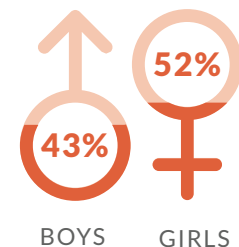
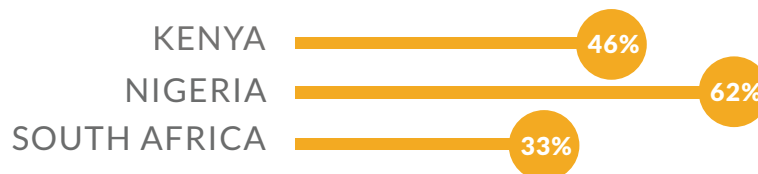


Education is the primary thing that will guarantee me a better future:



I am going or planning to go to university

Yes Response



Most plan to go, but among teens who did say something might prevent them from attending university, cost was the most frequently mentioned. Two out of five teens in Africa said this.

Employment and Career

African teens are quite certain that they will have a future career opportunity. No differences were seen by gender or age group in response to this question. Both younger and older teens, as well as boys and girls were equally optimistic.

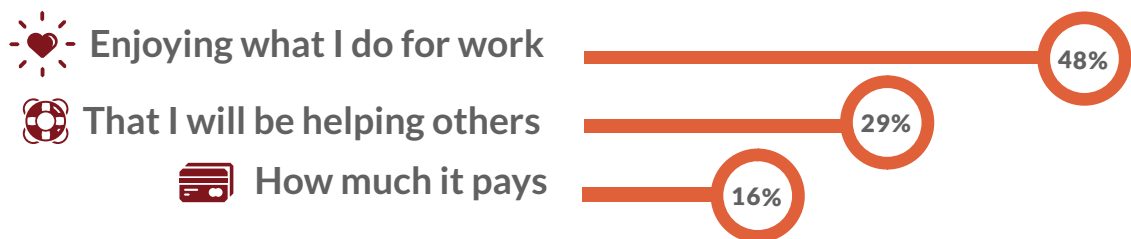


I believe I will have a future career opportunity

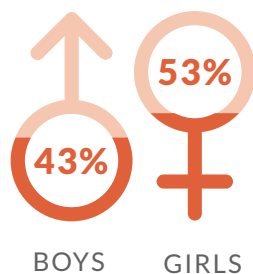


Although they may not yet know what that career will be, teens do have an idea of what they want from their future employment. Nearly half of teens in Africa say their top career priority is enjoying what they do for work. Helping others was also a popular answer, with fewer teens saying that how much a job pays would be their primary concern. Girls were more likely than boys to say that enjoying their work would be a priority.

TOP CAREER PRIORITIES



The most important thing in my future career is that I enjoy what I do for work



Entrepreneurship

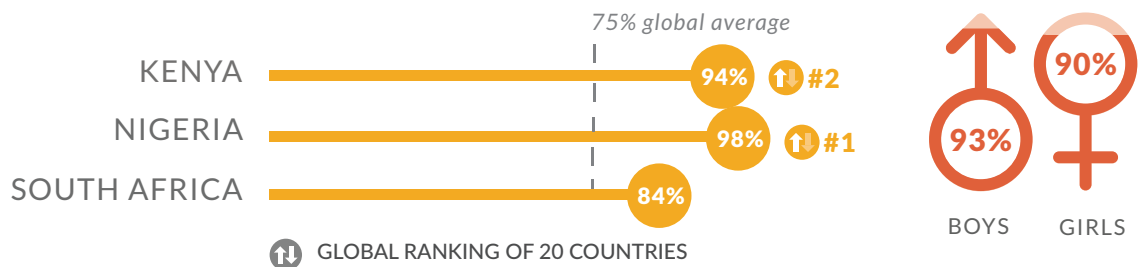
Teens in Africa are some of the most ambitious of their global generation with a strong desire to be entrepreneurs. Nigeria and Kenya lead the way globally in displaying an entrepreneurial attitude. Nearly all teens surveyed in these two countries say they would like to start a business or own their own company in the future. Teens in South Africa were less likely to say this, but still exceeded the global average.

Differences were seen by age with older teens having the most entrepreneurial attitude of any age group. Boys were slightly more entrepreneurial than females, but still 9 in 10 girls said they would like to start a business or own a company in the future.

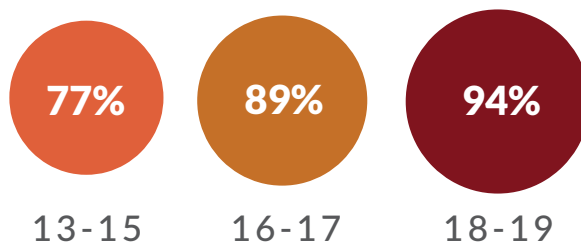
92% OF TEENS IN AFRICA WOULD LIKE TO START A BUSINESS OR OWN THEIR OWN COMPANY IN THE FUTURE



I would like to start a business or own my own company in the future



ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE BY AGE



About OneHope

In partnership with local churches, ministries, and governments around the world, OneHope has reached more than 1.7 billion children and youth with God's Word. Based on in-country research OneHope conducts, Scripture programs are designed to be age and culturally relevant. Since 1987, OneHope has helped kids experience God's Story, sharing the life-changing message of hope with children and youth in every country. onehope.net

Methodology

This study surveyed 1,275 teens across Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. The survey was distributed via an online panel to young people ages 13-19 who have regular access to the Internet. Note that these results do not reflect the viewpoint of all teens in Africa, but only those who are digitally connected in these three countries.

Data was collected from February 24 to March 27, 2020, which is before the effects of the coronavirus pandemic were felt in a widespread way. As a result, we believe this research accurately reflects teens' beliefs and behaviors as a baseline before this historic event disrupted life as we know it. Data was also collected before schools adapted to distance education as a result of the pandemic. While teens were not specifically instructed to exclude time spent on homework or school from their estimates of total time spent online daily, it is unlikely that very many of them were cyber students at the time they responded to this survey.

The research instrument consisted of 72 questions and was distributed via Centiment Research. As a quality control measure, respondents were disqualified if they incorrectly answered a simple attention-check question.

COUNTRY	SAMPLE SIZE	DATA COLLECTION
Kenya	435	February 25 - March 27, 2020
Nigeria	420	February 24 - March 20, 2020
South Africa	420	February 24 - March 7, 2020

Definitions

CHRISTIAN

Teens who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witness or Mormon.

COMMITTED CHRISTIAN

Teens who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witness or Mormon, and who met the following criteria:

- Believe God exists and that they can have a personal relationship with Him.
- 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.
- Read Scripture on their own at least weekly.
- Pray at least weekly.

Note that Committed Christian teens may be Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Orthodox, or any other Christian denomination.

NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

Teens who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witness or Mormon, and who did not meet the criteria of core beliefs or habits established for Committed Christians

OTHER BELIEFS

Teens who self-identified as Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, another religion or said they had no religion, for example atheist, agnostic, or none of the above.

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www.globalyouthculture.net



GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE