

You Lost Me

David Kinnaman, author of *You Lost Me*, makes several great observations about why young people give up their faith after leaving high school. He found that 59% of young people with a religious background dropped out of their church after attending regularly. One of the most helpful features of *You Lost Me* was the six top reasons why students give up on God:

- **Overprotective:** Young people have been so overprotected by our “helicopter” culture, that many seek risks outside traditional boundaries including drugs, pornography, and extreme thrill seeking.
- **Shallow:** Not surprisingly, research shows that young people do not have a deep understanding of their faith.
- **Antiscience:** More than 50% of churchgoing youth want a career in a science-related field. Yet only 1% of preachers report addressing a scientific issue in the past year.
- **Repressive:** The truth is that 4 out of 5 religiously-minded young people have had sex. Christian teenagers have more conservative behavior than others but not different behavior.
- **Exclusive:** This generation has more non-Christian friends than previous generations and relationships with people of differing sexual orientations.
- **Doubtless:** Both intellectual and emotional doubt plagues our young people and is a significant reason young adults leave their churches.

It is really a modern tragedy that we have failed to help young people develop a biblical worldview. Despite years of worship assemblies and countless hours of Bible-centered teaching, thousands of next generation Christians have no idea that their faith in God and the scriptures should define their lives.

Adapted From Sean McDowell