



explore
the meaning of life

youthalpha.

YOUTH AND RELIGION STATISTICS*:

- Religious 12th graders are less likely than their non-religious counterparts to:
 - smoke cigarettes and less likely to start smoking tobacco at early ages
 - drink alcohol and are more likely to postpone their first time getting drunk. When they do drink, religious high school seniors are also significantly less likely to drink alcohol until they are drunk
 - have ever tried any kind of drug, including hard drugs. They are also more likely to postpone first use of marijuana and often never try marijuana
 - commit a variety of crimes or get in trouble with police
- Religious 12th graders
 - Receive fewer traffic tickets and are more likely to wear their seatbelts
 - Are better behaved at school, less likely to be sent for detention, skip school, be suspended or expelled
 - More likely to volunteer in their community and to participate in student government
 - Play sports or exercise significantly more than non-religious peers
 - Are less likely to argue with parents who are considered strict
 - Have a more positive attitude toward themselves and their life
- In sum, regular religious service attendance, high subjective importance of faith, and many years spent participating in religious youth groups are clearly associated with safer, healthier, more constructive lifestyles for U.S. teenagers.
- By far parents are the most influential source

Encourage your teen to explore the meaning of life and register for this fall's Youth Alpha!

*"Soul Searching" was a National Study of Youth and Religion.
You can find out more about this at: www.youthandreligion.org