

# Connecting Disconnected Young People Through Worship

**Connecting Disconnected  
Young People Through Worship**

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"Religion just does not naturally appear much on most teenagers' open-ended lists of what really matters in their lives." Smith & Denton (2005, 130)

**Introduction**

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1. WHO DISCONNECTED FROM WHOM?
2. WHAT MUST THE CHURCH RECOVER IN ORDER TO RECONNECT?
3. WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO RECONNECT?

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**Who disconnected from whom?**

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- Did the church (adults) disconnect from the young people?
- Did young people disconnect from the church?
  - Popular Wisdom: Young people disconnected

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- **Contributing Factors**
  - Social & Economic Factors
  - Development of Adolescence
  - Public Education & "Experts"
  - Disposable Income
    - Term "Teenager" coined in 1941
    - Separate Youth Culture (1<sup>st</sup> issue of *Seventeen* published in 1944)
  - Young People as Adolescents

The church (adults) disconnected from young people.

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What must the Church Recover in order to Reconnect?

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- **Body of Christ**
  - Young People are a part
  - Young people have the same value
- **Dynamic Nature of Worship**
  - Dialogical character
- **Purposeful**
  - Ephesians 4; Hebrews 10
  - "We get what we are." Smith (2005)

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*What is good for our young people is good for our congregations.*

What steps must be taken to reconnect?

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- Adults must be equipped to mentor young people.
- Worship must be accessible.
- Worship involves learning to appreciate other dialects.
- Relational and Experiential.

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# Connecting Disconnected Young People Through Worship

## Response & Discussion

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## Resources

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Christian Smith with Melinda Denton (2005) <i>Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers</i> (New York: Oxford)	<i>Loss of American Teenagers</i> (New York: Oxford)
Savage Sylvia, Colline Mayo, Bob Mayo and Graham Cray (2006) <i>Making Sense of (L)ife</i> (London, UK: Church House)	<i>Generation Y: The World Now of 15-25-year-olds</i> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity)
Hawton (2006) <i>Joyful Exiles: Life in Christ on the Dangerous Edge of Things</i> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity)	Harper/SanFrancisco)
Peterson (2006) <i>Loving the Resurrection</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress)	
Wright (2006) <i>Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense</i> (San Francisco, CA: Harper/SanFrancisco)	
Mittelman (1999) <i>The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager</i> (New York: HarperCollins)	
Nydam, "The Relational Theology of Generation Y," <i>Calvin Theological Journal</i> 41:2 (November 2006): 321-30	

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## *Connecting Disconnected Young People through Worship: Resource List*

Compiled by Darwin K. Glassford

Christian Smith with Melinda Denton (2005) *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (New York: Oxford).

Sara Savage Sylvia Collins-Mayo, Bob Mayo and Graham Cray (2006) *Making Sense of Generation Y: The World view of 15-25-year-olds* (London, UK: Church House).

James Houston (2006) *Joyful Exiles: Life in Christ on the Dangerous Edge of Things* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity).

Eugene Peterson (2006) *Living the Resurrection* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress).

N.T. Wright (2006) *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense* (San Francisco, CA: HarperSan Francisco).

Thomas Hine (1999) *the Rise and Fall of the American Teenager* (New York: HarperCollins).

Ron Nydam, "The Relational Theology of Generation Y" *Calvin Theological Journal* 41.2 (November 2006): 321-30.