

HEAD AND HEART
STARTING POINTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Image Research Report



the
visual **faith**
project



This research was conducted through a grant from Mark and Nancy Hanson. The research was directed by Dr. Nancy Going, Dr. Roland Martinson, and John Roberto (Vibrant Faith Research) in partnership with Ralph Ennis (The Navigators).

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Head and Heart Starting Points

IMAGE-BASED RESEARCH

- Introduction

p. 4

- HEAD – Belief Topics

p. 10

High School Students

p. 11

Hispanic High School Students

p. 24

Parents (with Children Under Age 14)

p. 29

- HEART – Emotional Themes

p. 42

- **HEAD AND HEART SUMMARY**

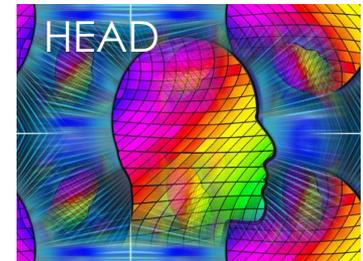
53

p.

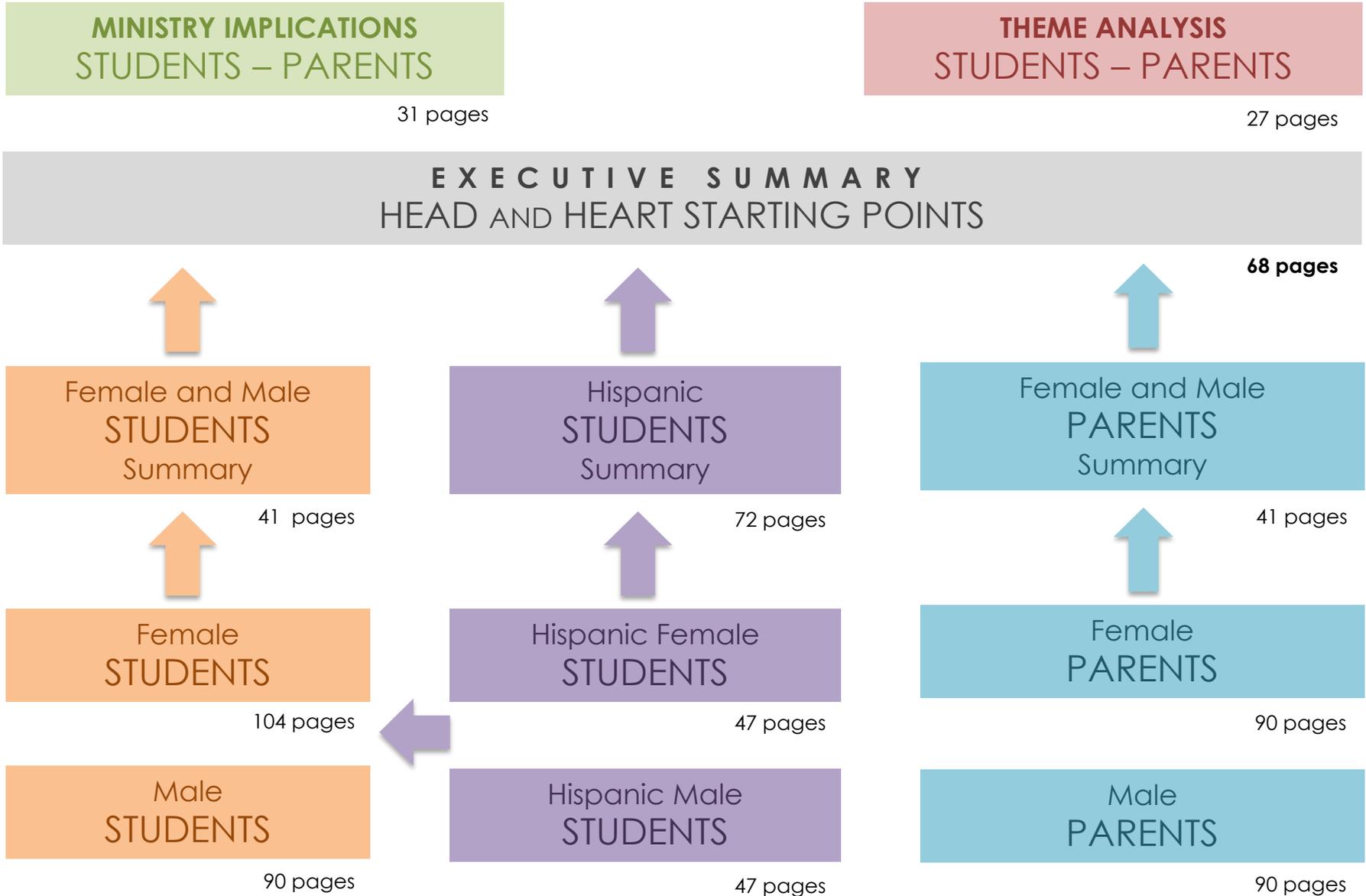
- Contact Information

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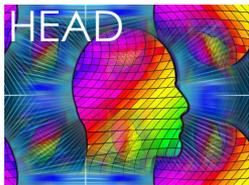
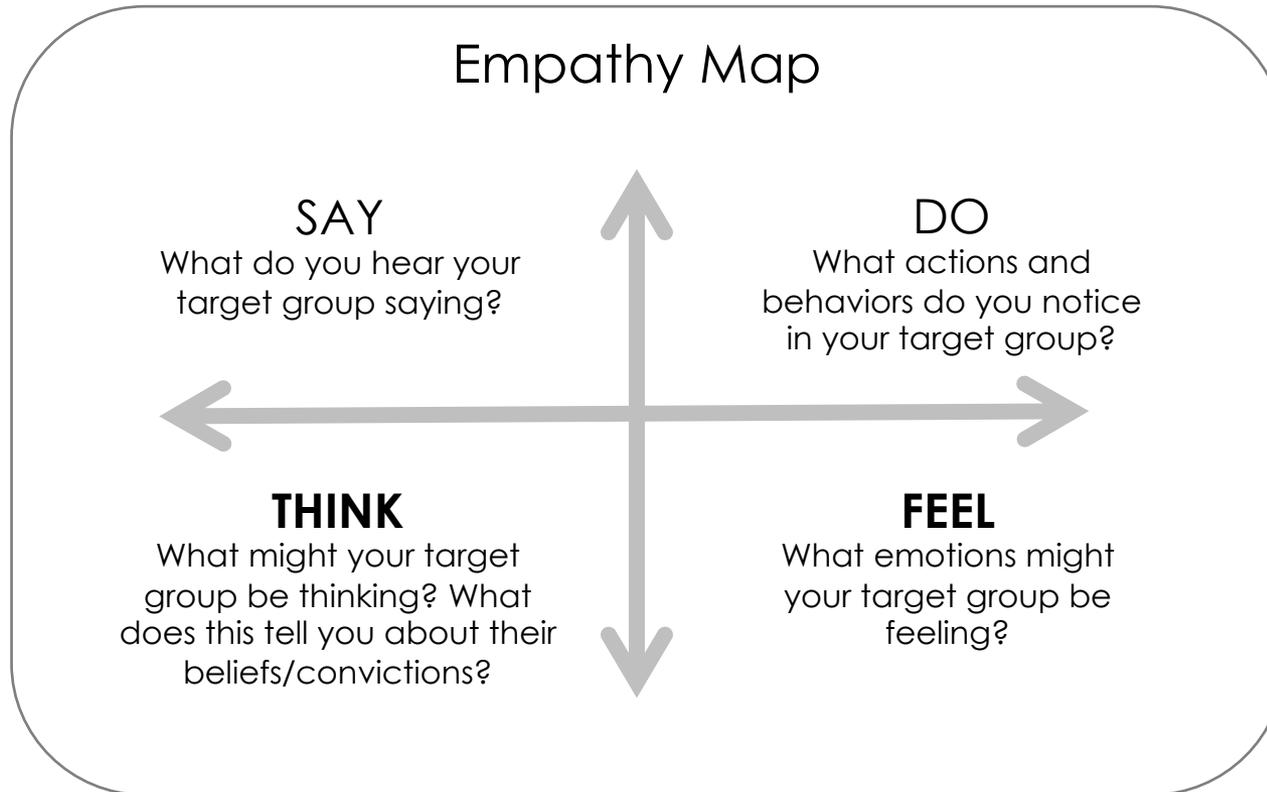
INTRODUCTION: Schematic of Reports



748 total pages

Starting Points Research

RESEARCH GOAL: We seek to better understand the **HEAD and HEART STARTING POINTS** our target audiences regarding the topics of **LIFE and SPIRITUALITY** and emotional themes associated with those belief topics and then to employ that understanding to better help people grow as lifelong disciples of Jesus.



**BELIEF
TOPICS**



**EMOTIONAL
THEMES**

INTRODUCTION: Belief Topics

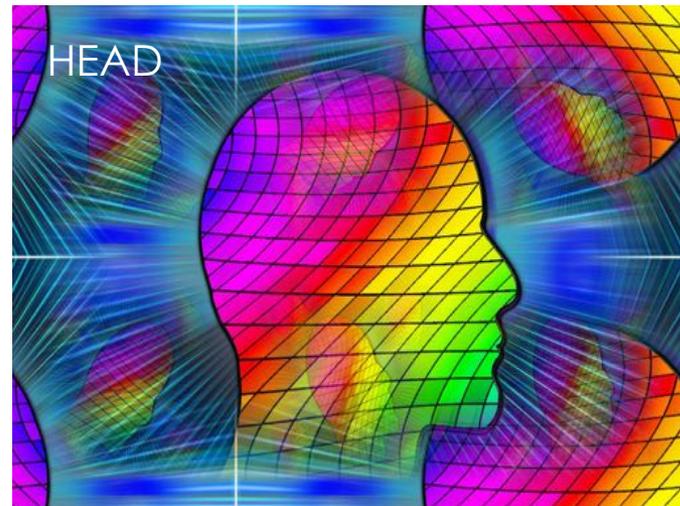
This image-based research sought to better understand the “reasoning of hearts” and thus help ministry leaders better serve high school students and parents of children under 14 in their faith formation with Jesus. Below are the ten topics that participants selected images and wrote words to describe their belief constructs underpinning LIFE and SPIRITUALITY. Since these audiences have been substantially socialized by images as well as words, the research methodology employed both images and words.

My Life

1. Early Life
2. Life Today
3. Future Hopes
4. Very Important
5. Prefer Others See Me

My Spirituality

6. Experience God Daily
7. View Jesus
8. Work of the Holy Spirit
9. Experience with the Bible
10. Good Christians



INTRODUCTION: Emotional Themes

After reviewing the responses of 106 participants in 5 cities across the USA who selected over 1000 images, we suggest that these audiences' six emotional themes are: **happy loves, hopeful imagination, hectic stressed, spiritually conflicted, often disoriented, and hiding shame.** Pages 11-59 will give visual windows into these overall emotional themes as well as brief descriptions in words.



“But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts ...”

(Luke 9: 47 ESV)

By exploring belief topics and emotional themes, we seek to know the reasoning of the hearts of students and parents in order to develop empathy and better minister to them as they seek to live as lifelong disciples of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: Using Image Research Findings

Suggestive – NOT Definitive or Predictive

These findings are suggestive of perspectives, emotions and imaginations that our target audiences may have across the USA. The findings are NOT definitive of their acknowledged beliefs. And they are NOT statistically predictive of future behaviors by these audiences.

Central Tendencies – NOT Stereotyping

These findings suggest the central tendencies of our target audiences. These findings do not suggest that all people within an audience fit these descriptions—that would be stereotyping an audience. You will undoubtedly be able to cite people within these audiences that do not exhibit these tendencies.

Profitable for Exploration

These findings are profitable for explorations within our target audiences. Behind happy faces of these audiences, you may find stress, disorientation, conflict and innovation that “looks” like the images selected by our participants as they live life and engage in spirituality.

Ministry Implications

These findings have implications for ministry. We encourage ministry leaders to grapple with these findings and together develop their actionable implications.

INTRODUCTION: How to Read This Report

Word-based research is often quickly read or scanned for new ideas. Sometimes a detailed reading is required or desired. The goal is the **ADDITION OF KNOWLEDGE** for the reader with the possibility of making better informed decisions and actions.

This image-based research is very different. *This is a “taste and see” experience.* Before and as you read the words, spend time reflecting on the images chosen by the participants. These images are **VISUAL WINDOWS** into the reasoning of their heart. These visual understandings can help you better connect with and minister to the intended audiences.



All images in this report were selected by research participants.

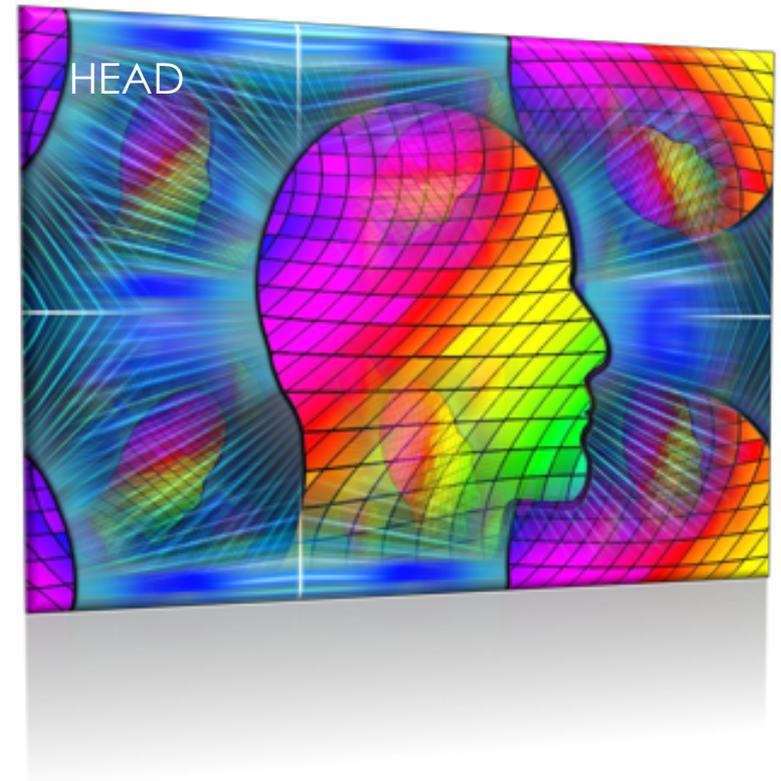
Belief Topics

My Life

1. Early Life
2. Life Today
3. Future Hopes
4. Very Important
5. Prefer Others See Me

My Spirituality

6. Experience God Daily
7. View Jesus
8. Work of the Holy Spirit
9. Experience with the Bible
10. Good Christians



Topical Findings by Demographic Groups

- Female and Male Students
- Female and Male Hispanic Students
- Female and Male Parents

Note: The images on the next pages are illustrative and were chosen by students and parents. For all images selected for these topics refer to the individual reports listed on page 4.

Female and Male

High School Students

(58 participants – including 18 Hispanic students)

How to read the words on an images:



**LIFE TODAY: two
sets of stairs;
kind of sad
(598 (-5))**

The topic for an image is in CAPS with the participant's description following. The first number is the image reference number. If a second negative number is present, it represents the degree the participant disliked his/her chosen image. A (-5) represents the highest level of dislike.

My Life: EARLY YEARS

← Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses →



EARLY: fun, exciting (350)



EARLY: cute, innocent, chubby, happy (939)



EARLY: angry child; cute but upset (323)



EARLY: young, playful, fearless of the world around them (826)



EARLY: tiny, fragile; small things can still make a difference (532)



EARLY: wonderment; unknown, awe, looking (586)

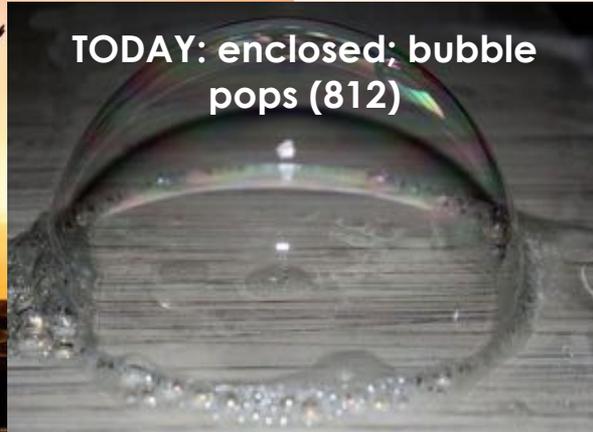
fun, fearless, innocent, upset,
fragile, looking

My Life: LIFE TODAY

← Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses →



TODAY: friends, fun, relationships, memories, time, peace (474)



TODAY: enclosed; bubble pops (812)



TODAY: preserving, dependent (402) (-1)



TODAY: hiding from responsibilities, procrastinating (879)



TODAY: powerful, small; buff man flexing his giant muscles; me (144)



TODAY: twisting or curving, confusing, (221)

fun, hiding, bubble pops, preserving, dependent, powerful and small, twisting, confusing

My Life: HOPES for the FUTURE

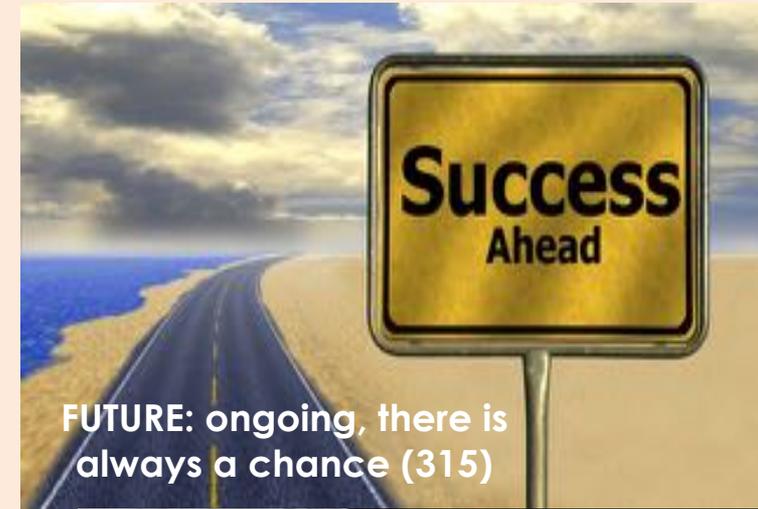
← Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses →



FUTURE: transformation, realization, breaking free, bright (850)



FUTURE: smiling, happy objects (111)



FUTURE: ongoing, there is always a chance (315)



FUTURE: love, family, living (794)



FUTURE: fierce, holy; a entity strong and loyal (216)



FUTURE: big expensive resort; goals, money, vacation (11)

breaking free, happy objects, love, ongoing, fierce, big expensive

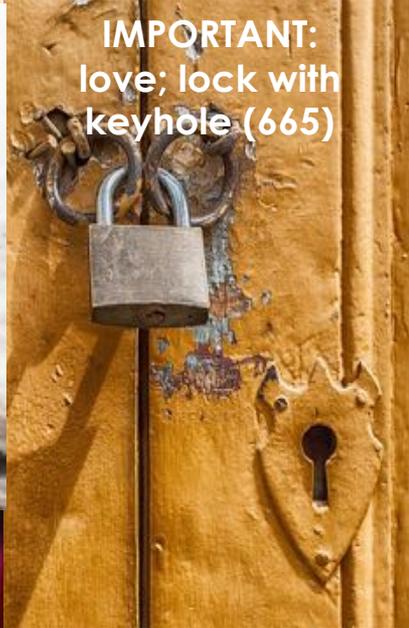
My Life: VERY IMPORTANT

← Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses →

IMPORTANT: accuracy (176)



**IMPORTANT:
love; lock with
keyhole (665)**



**IMPORTANT: love, together, family,
child, mother (203)**



IMPORTANT: connection (98)



**IMPORTANT: earth; big,
earth, round (973)**

**IMPORTANT: horse,
majestic; he's your
spirit animal (13)**



**accuracy, connection, love,
locked, nature, spirit animal**

My Life: PREFER OTHERS SEE ME

Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses

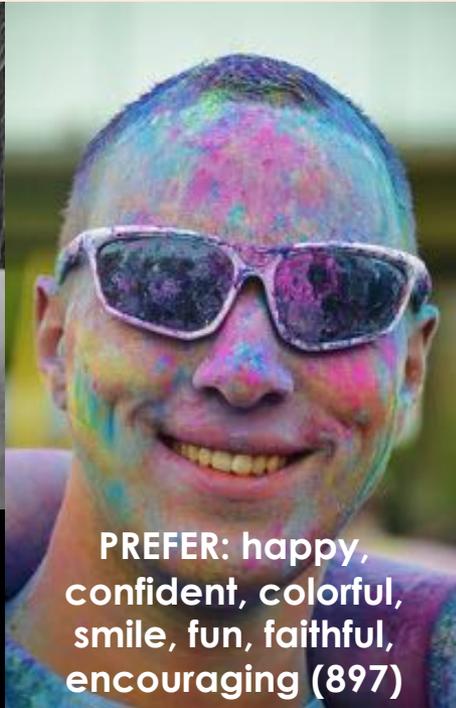


PREFER:
glamorous,
pretty, beauty
(348)



PREFER: not perfect, beautiful;
puzzle pieces not perfectly in
place (130)

**glamorous, not
perfect, happy, wild,
fragile, creative**



PREFER: happy,
confident, colorful,
smile, fun, faithful,
encouraging (897)



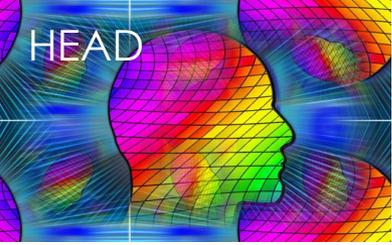
PREFER: water; wander, creative,
imagination (859)



PREFER: king, wild (127)



PREFER: keen, colorful; fragile,
cool, sneaky (820)



My Life – Female and Male High School Students

1. EARLY LIFE for these female and male students was both **fun** and a **distant memory of family unity**.
2. These students indicate LIFE TODAY in the **fast lane is full of options, stress, and confusion** which is somewhat sad to them.
3. The FUTURE HOPES of female students are **fragile and fragmented** and for male students there is **little hope of true integration**.
4. Spending **time alone in nature** is VERY IMPORTANT to these students.
5. Female and male students PREFER OTHERS SEE THEM as having **fun with a few friends** even as they **hide their true selves**.

*NOTE: In the images selected by the female and male students (except Hispanic female students), happy **family life is mostly unobservable**.*

My Spirituality: EXPERIENCE GOD DAILY

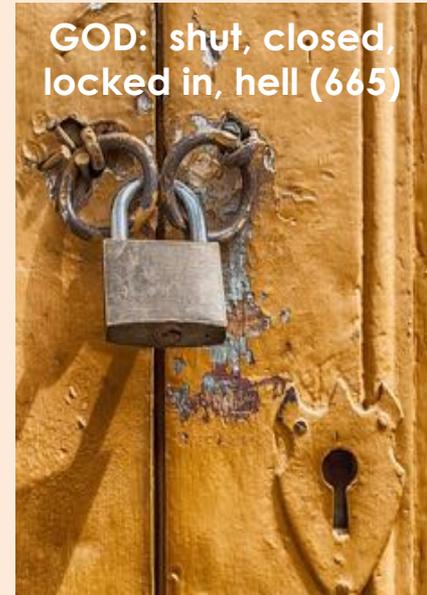
Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses



GOD: love, galaxy, family, friends, space (710)

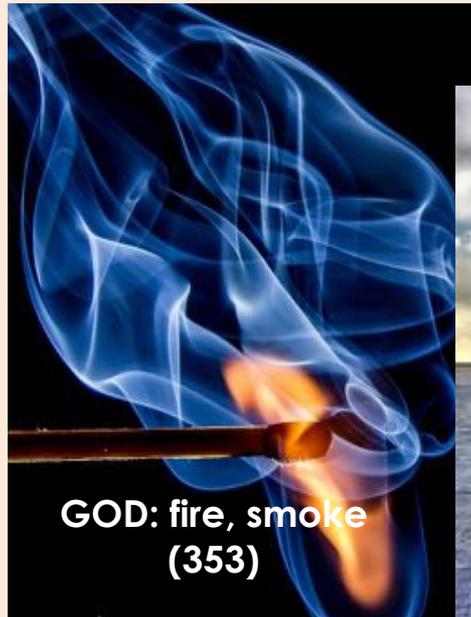


GOD: wonder, curiosity, beauty, faith, listening (114)



GOD: shut, closed, locked in, hell (665)

GOD: I found the hand I need to walk through my journey; change, love, faith (151)



GOD: fire, smoke (353)

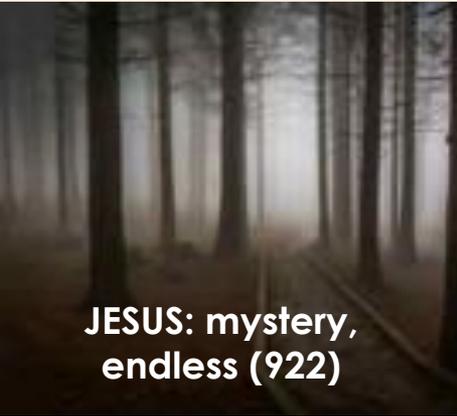


GOD: cold, beauty, awesome (608)

love, galaxy, wonder, locked, fire, cold, beauty

My Spirituality: VIEW of JESUS

Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses



JESUS: mystery, endless (922)



JESUS: friend, road; the one beside me when alone (557)



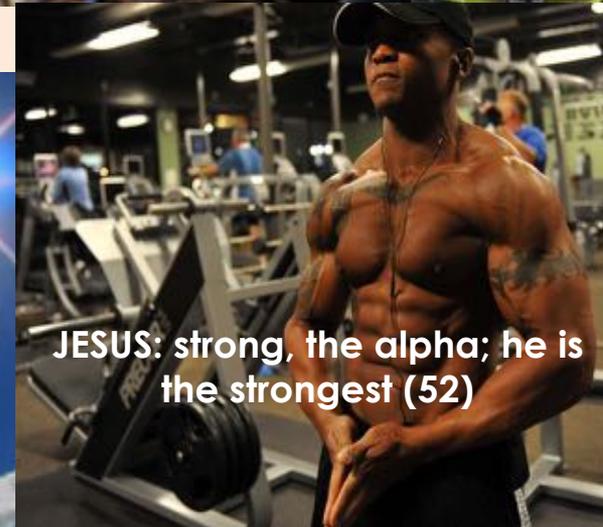
JESUS: leader, damage; firefighter, destruction, doing the right (102)



JESUS: caring, listening (917)



JESUS: world / diverse; culture diverse, accept (217)



JESUS: strong, the alpha; he is the strongest (52)

mysterious, caring, beside me, leader, the alpha, diverse

My Spirituality: WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT

Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses



SPIRIT: massive, enlightening, limitless possibilities, always expanding (862)

SPIRIT: generous, sweet (690)



SPIRIT: path, planned; a straight path perfectly aligned (105)



SPIRIT: crowded, holy; middle eastern holy place (132)



SPIRIT: in everyone; many different faces, all from God (943)



SPIRIT: faith, love; light, trinity, Christ (466)

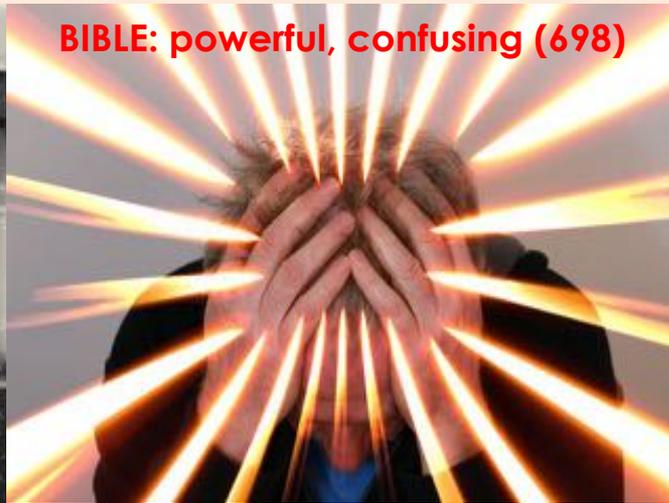
expanding, sweet, straight path, holy place, in everyone, faith, love, light, trinity, Christ

My Spirituality: EXPERIENCE WITH THE BIBLE

← Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses →



**BIBLE: curious, attention;
(117)**



BIBLE: powerful, confusing (698)

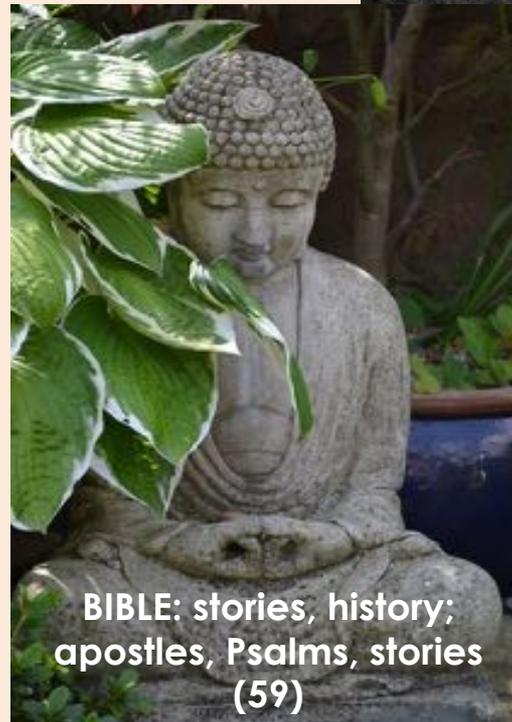


**BIBLE: fun, abstract; a fun odd path
(455)**

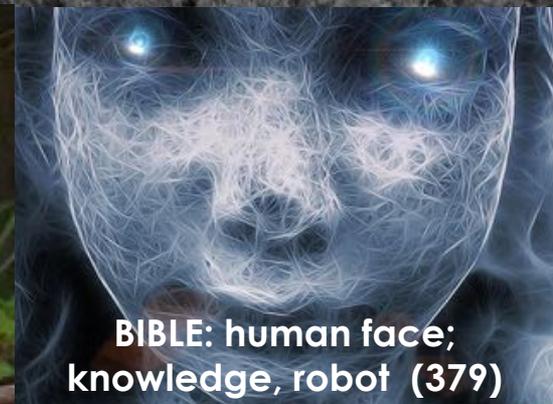


BIBLE: learning about something (182)

**curious, confusing, learning,
odd path, robot, (Buddha)**



**BIBLE: stories, history;
apostles, Psalms, stories
(59)**



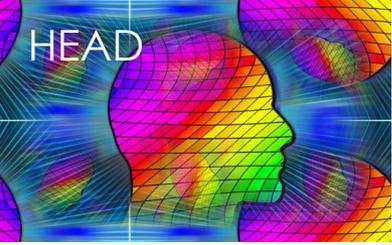
**BIBLE: human face;
knowledge, robot (379)**

My Spirituality: GOOD CHRISTIAN

Female Student Responses – Male Student Responses



loving, serving, accepting, dressed up,
farming, no sin, non-options



My Spirituality – Female and Male High School Students

6. Both female and male students experience GOD somewhat positively yet they have a diminished view of the Triune God as **galactic love** and **tender helper** and yet **cold beauty** and a **locked door**.
7. JESUS is a **mysterious helper of God** and a **strong fighter** Who is **endless and beautiful**. He brings new life for all peoples.
8. The HOLY SPIRIT is at **work in God's creation** as a generous, sweet builder.
9. The BIBLE is experienced as **powerful and confusing**—a place to learn something new.
10. GOOD CHRISTIANS **spread light** and are often **dress people**.

*NOTE: Christian spirituality is **not present as an umbrella for understanding life** or bringing meaning to all of life.*

Female and Male

HISPANIC STUDENTS

(18 participants)

MY LIFE – Hispanic Students Collage



PREFER: happy, successful, satisfied (856)



FUTURE: pretty girl's face; make-up, eye brows, goals (720)



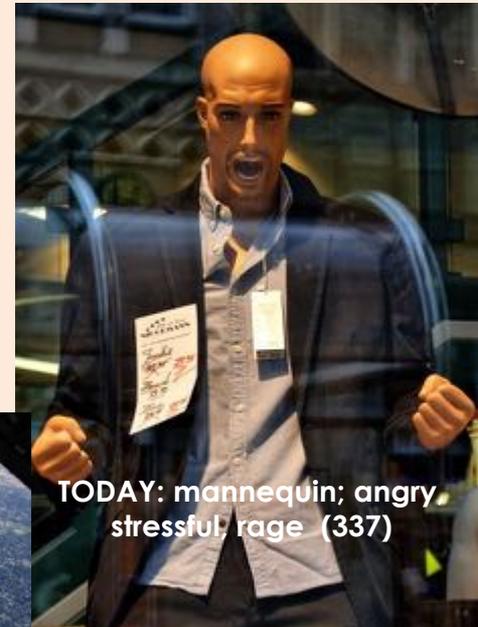
PREFER: world; guy jumping (691)



IMPORTANT: Mom and baby (868)

Female Image Selections
←

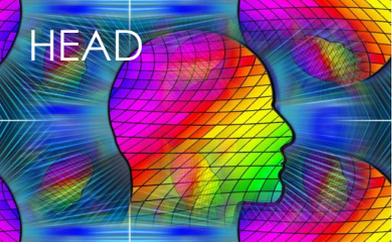
→
Male Image Selections



TODAY: mannequin; angry, stressful, rage (337)



PREFER: guy arm wrestling; strength, power, authority (37)



My Life – Hispanic Female and Male Students

1. Though LIFE TODAY for these Hispanic students is filled with **fun and exploring**, it is also surrounded by struggles. Life today is a roller coaster that is **stressful and confusing**.
2. These Hispanic students hope in the FUTURE that they will be **successful adults** in family life and on the **uncertain road** before them.
3. Family and friends are VERY IMPORTANT for these Hispanic students as they seek a **life of happiness** within a **bigger world** and ecosystem.
4. These Hispanic students PREFER OTHERS SEE them outwardly as **happy, fun and glamorous** as well as being **powerful, caring and brave** on the inside.

*NOTE: One of their expressed core human longings is for a journey that leads to **glory**.*

MY SPIRITUALITY – Hispanic Students Collage



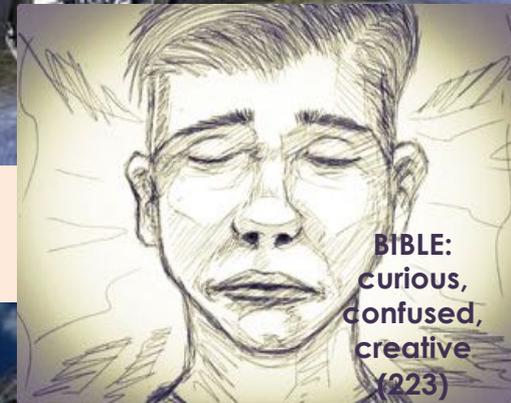
JESUS: caring, listening (917)



BIBLE: powerful, night, cross (74) (-5)



GOD: car; cold, beauty, awesome (608)



BIBLE: curious, confused, creative (223)



SPIRIT: glowing flower; light in darkness, life (466)

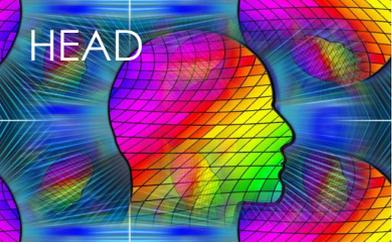
Female
Image
Selections



Male
Image
Selections



JESUS: world, culture, diverse, accept (217)



My Spirituality – Hispanic Female and Male Students

6. These Hispanic students EXPERIENCE GOD as a **journey and a puzzle** while seeing Him as **strong, nurturing and cold beauty**. They experience God through traditional ways and symbols. He has the keys to heaven and hell. All of this is **confusing** to them.
7. These Hispanic students VIEW JESUS as having **child love**. He is also **powerful and comforting** and He is trustworthy—someone who fulfills His **promises** since He is alive and everywhere.
8. For these Hispanic students, the powerful WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is often **confusing and hidden** as He loves, helps, guides and gives us hope.
9. These students EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE as a source of **happiness, joy, light, and peace** and yet hard to **decipher, confusing and boring**. The Bible is a different view of reality that requires one to **robotically accept**.

*NOTE: These Hispanic female and male students can **dislike part** of their view of **God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and/or the Bible**. Their spiritual lives were not primary to them and **open for change**.*

Female and Male

PARENTS

with Children under age 14

(48 participants)

My Life: EARLY YEARS

← Female Parent Responses – Male Parent Responses →



EARLY: protected, growing; safe possibility (607)



EARLY: lonely, sad, young girl quietly contemplating her day (617)



EARLY: curious kid in playground wants to know (532)



EARLY: simple and outdoors exploring (387)



EARLY: my desires and passion to be an astronaut (430)



EARLY: carefree, friendship; trust, fearless (588)

protected, growing, exploring, lonely, sad, quiet, contemplating, curious, desires, carefree, fearless

My Life: LIFE TODAY

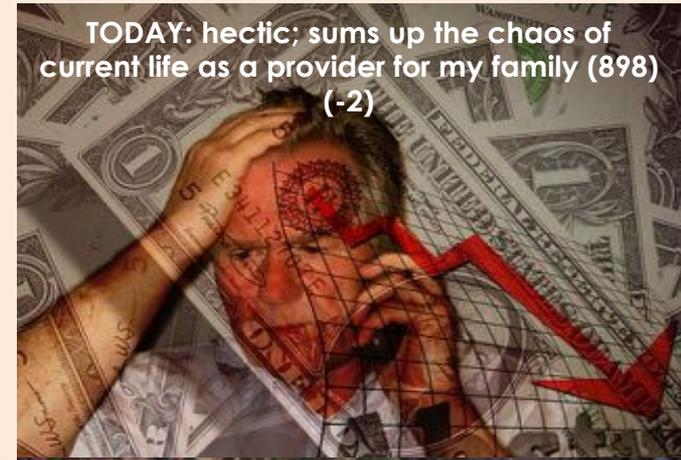
← Female Parent Responses – Male Parent Responses →



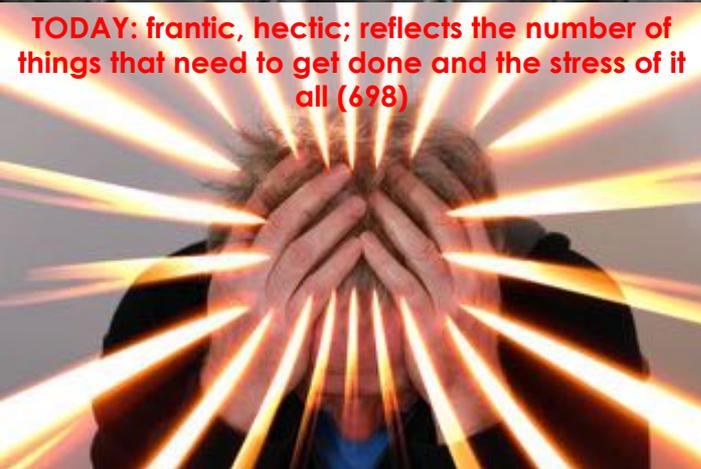
TODAY: thinking / stuck; contemplating choices while feeling stuck (307)



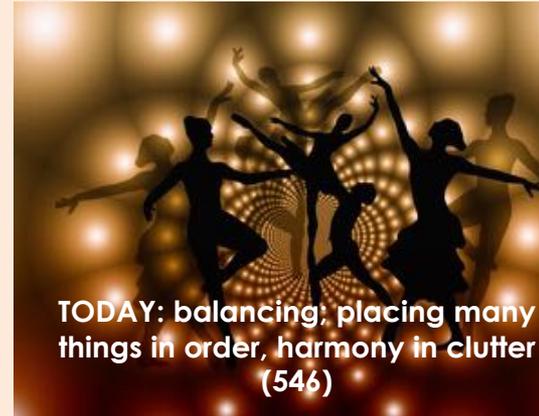
TODAY: mother-child bond; intense love of a new child (911)



TODAY: hectic; sums up the chaos of current life as a provider for my family (898) (-2)



TODAY: frantic, hectic; reflects the number of things that need to get done and the stress of it all (698)



TODAY: balancing; placing many things in order, harmony in clutter (546)



TODAY: reflective girl ; able to be strong through alone (364)

stuck, contemplating choices, frantic, stress, intense love, chaos, strong, alone, harmony

My Life: HOPES for the FUTURE

← Female Parent Responses – Male Parent Responses →

FUTURE: family pier; family enjoying sunset together on pier (112)



FUTURE: connected races; a world where all types can hold hands (205)



FUTURE: peace, quiet; time to sit and reflect (166)



FUTURE: unity, love; eternal, together(177)



FUTURE: eternal supernatural; supernatural outlook in life, heaven, with God and all the saints (721)

FUTURE: full moon framing a tree; people gathered during a special time (710)

family enjoying together, peace, quiet, reflect, all connected, supernatural, special time, unity, love

My Life: VERY IMPORTANT

← Female Parent Responses – Male Parent Responses →



IMPORTANT: family (792)



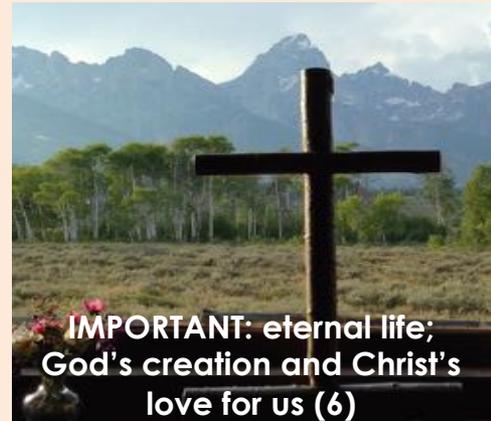
IMPORTANT: enjoying life with friends in nature; youth, fun (474)



IMPORTANT: child praying; concentrating while praying (925)



IMPORTANT: light in eyes, thoughtful eyes (341)



IMPORTANT: eternal life; God's creation and Christ's love for us (6)



IMPORTANT: happiness & fear; the flamboyant happiness of all the boys (526)

family, enjoying life, thoughtful, praying, eternal life, creation, happiness, fear, Christian's love

My Life: PREFER OTHERS SEE ME

Female Parent Responses – Male Parent Responses



PREFER: happy, elation (62)



PREFER: cat is quiet and observing (818)



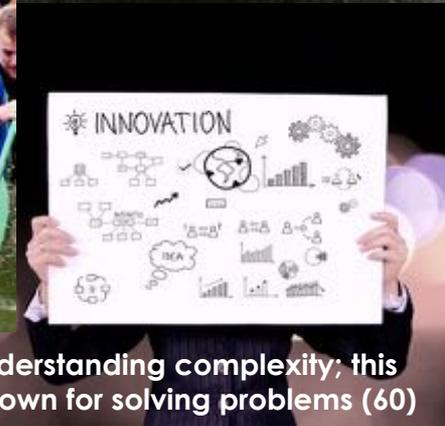
PREFER: smiling monkey; monkey has funny smile for camera (893)



PREFER: together; helping each other along the way (112)

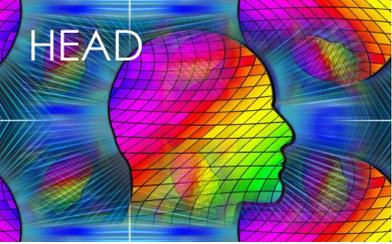


PREFER: leader, helpful; teamwork, effort (805)



PREFER: understanding complexity; this person is known for solving problems (60)

happy, quiet, observing, helping each other, smiling monkey, solving complex problems, helpful leader



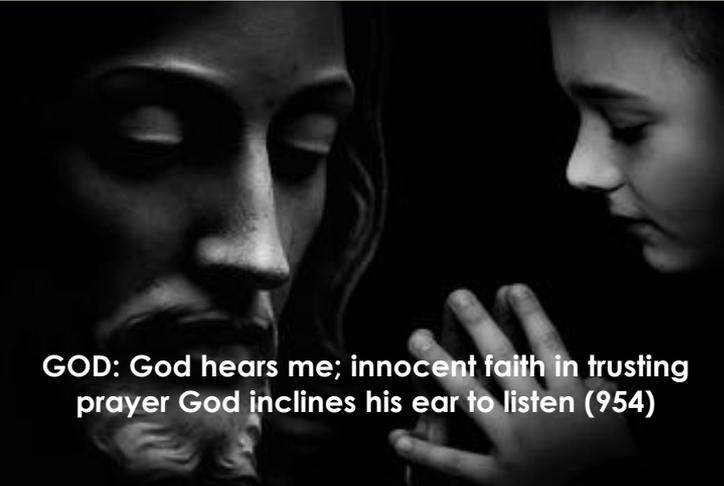
My Life – Female and Male Parents

1. EARLY LIFE for these parents was full of **curiosity and simple pleasures** even as they were **alone** much of the time.
2. These parents indicate LIFE TODAY is full of **unresolvable stresses** as they work to **build something worthwhile** and **balance life**.
3. The FUTURE HOPES of parents include **family life and global-local wholeness**.
4. **Family life, inner life and spiritual life** are VERY IMPORTANT to these parents.
5. Female and male parents PREFER OTHERS SEE THEM as **happy, caring, smart and having no worries**.

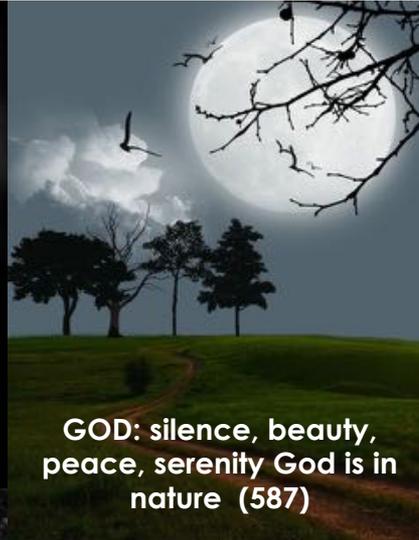
*NOTE: In the images selected by the female and male parents, **career advancement is mostly unobservable** or seemingly unattainable.*

My Spirituality: EXPERIENCE GOD DAILY

Female Responses – Male Responses



GOD: God hears me; innocent faith in trusting prayer God inclines his ear to listen (954)



GOD: silence, beauty, peace, serenity God is in nature (587)



GOD: touch, connectedness; love, tenderness (151)



GOD: always present but just out of reach (562)



GOD:; girl has a look of uncertainty about where she stands (869)



GOD: watchful eye; all seeing eye of God, forever watching us in our life, relationships & work (850)

hears, silence, serenity, present, out of reach, tenderness, love, forever watching, uncertain

My Spirituality: VIEW of JESUS

Female Responses – Male Responses



JESUS: clean up crew; sweeps up our mess; humble; does our dirty work (915)



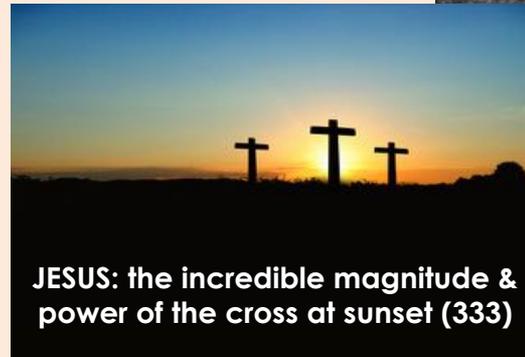
JESUS: Jesus is the light & girl is giving herself to him (114)



JESUS: mercy, friend; my savior, always carries me up, he is always there (557)



JESUS: waiting; waiting and being blocked from doing something (307)



JESUS: the incredible magnitude & power of the cross at sunset (333)



JESUS: leap of faith; trust and he will provide (765) (-4)

humble, clean up our mess, light, blocked, mercy, carries me, power of the cross, leap of faith

My Spirituality: WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT

Female Responses – Male Responses

SPIRIT: thundering, powerful; majestic, beautiful, surrounded like the dust (881)



SPIRIT: vibrant & unexpected (466)



SPIRIT: creation, earth, animals, life, perfection, family (93)



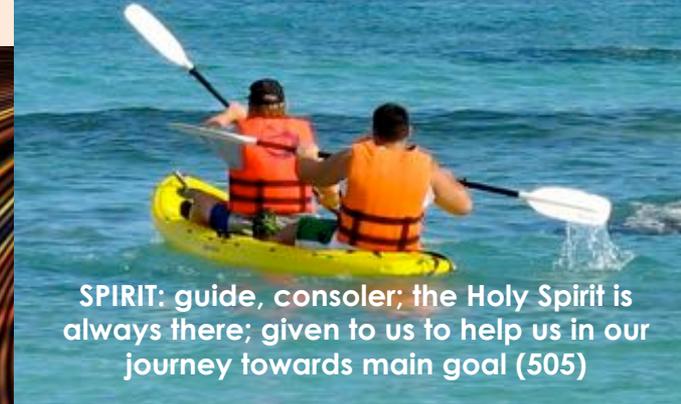
SPIRIT: the spirit moves you, teaches, and gives life (545)



SPIRIT: transforming; always there (131)



SPIRIT: guide, consoler; the Holy Spirit is always there; given to us to help us in our journey towards main goal (505)



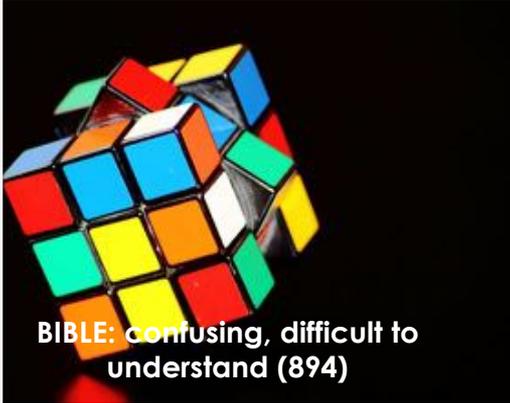
powerful, majestic, beautiful, gives life, teaches, unexpected, perfection, family, help, transforming, always there

My Spirituality: EXPERIENCE WITH THE BIBLE

Female Responses – Male Responses



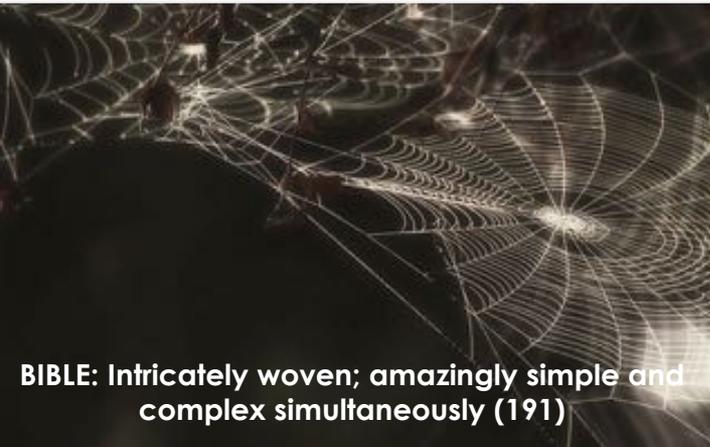
BIBLE: curious, new; always learning new things, more to learn (544)



BIBLE: confusing, difficult to understand (894)



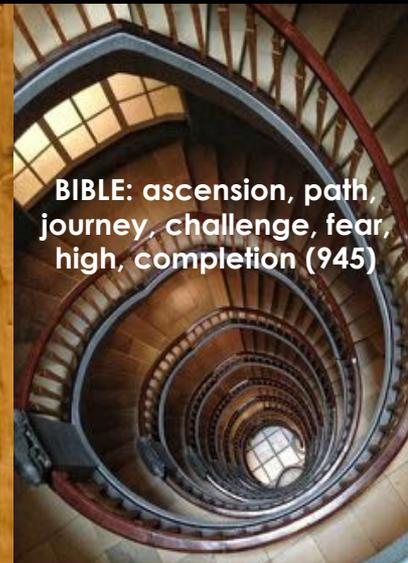
BIBLE: complete perspective; big picture, God's creation, what is important (973)



BIBLE: Intricately woven; amazingly simple and complex simultaneously (191)



BIBLE: locked door; lock on a golden door (665)



BIBLE: ascension, path, journey, challenge, fear, high, completion (945)

**curious, simple-complex,
confusing, big picture, path, fear,
locked door**

My Spirituality: GOOD CHRISTIAN

Female Responses – Male Responses



CHRISTIAN: connect care; love one another, no one is insignificant (151)



CHRISTIAN: looking with interest, concern, sincere (450)



CHRISTIAN: constant strength; no name, no face, no body, strength (709)



CHRISTIAN: does what's needed even if not glamorous (915)

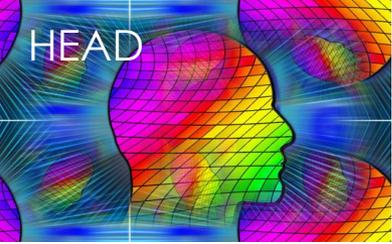


CHRISTIAN: lending a helping hand (43)



CHRISTIAN: support, love; family, caring, responsible, loving (794)

caring, love, non-glamorous, concern, no face, strength, family



My Spirituality – Female and Male Parents

6. Both female and male parents experience GOD as **trustworthy** and **tender loving**, but they are also **uncertain** of their standing with God Who is **forever watching**.
7. JESUS is viewed a **humble helper, gentle friend and teacher of life**; yet they see the **leap of faith** to trust Jesus is undesirable.
8. The HOLY SPIRIT is **multi-faceted, surprising, mysterious and transformative**—the Spirit's work is viewed very positively.
9. The BIBLE is experienced as simultaneously **simple and complex**—it is **unclear and confusing** and it's **big picture** of life is of **questionable value**.
10. GOOD CHRISTIANS are **humble** and filled with **joy and love**. They actively lend a **helping hand** to other.

*NOTE: Christian spirituality is **not an umbrella for understanding life** or bringing meaning to all of life.*

Emotional Themes



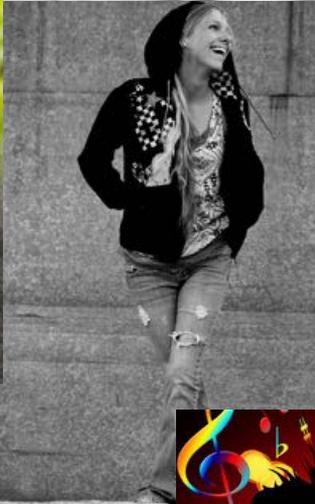
(106 student and parent participants)

1. Happy Loves
2. Hopeful Imagination
3. Hectic Stress
4. Spiritually Conflicted
5. Often Disoriented
6. Hiding Shame

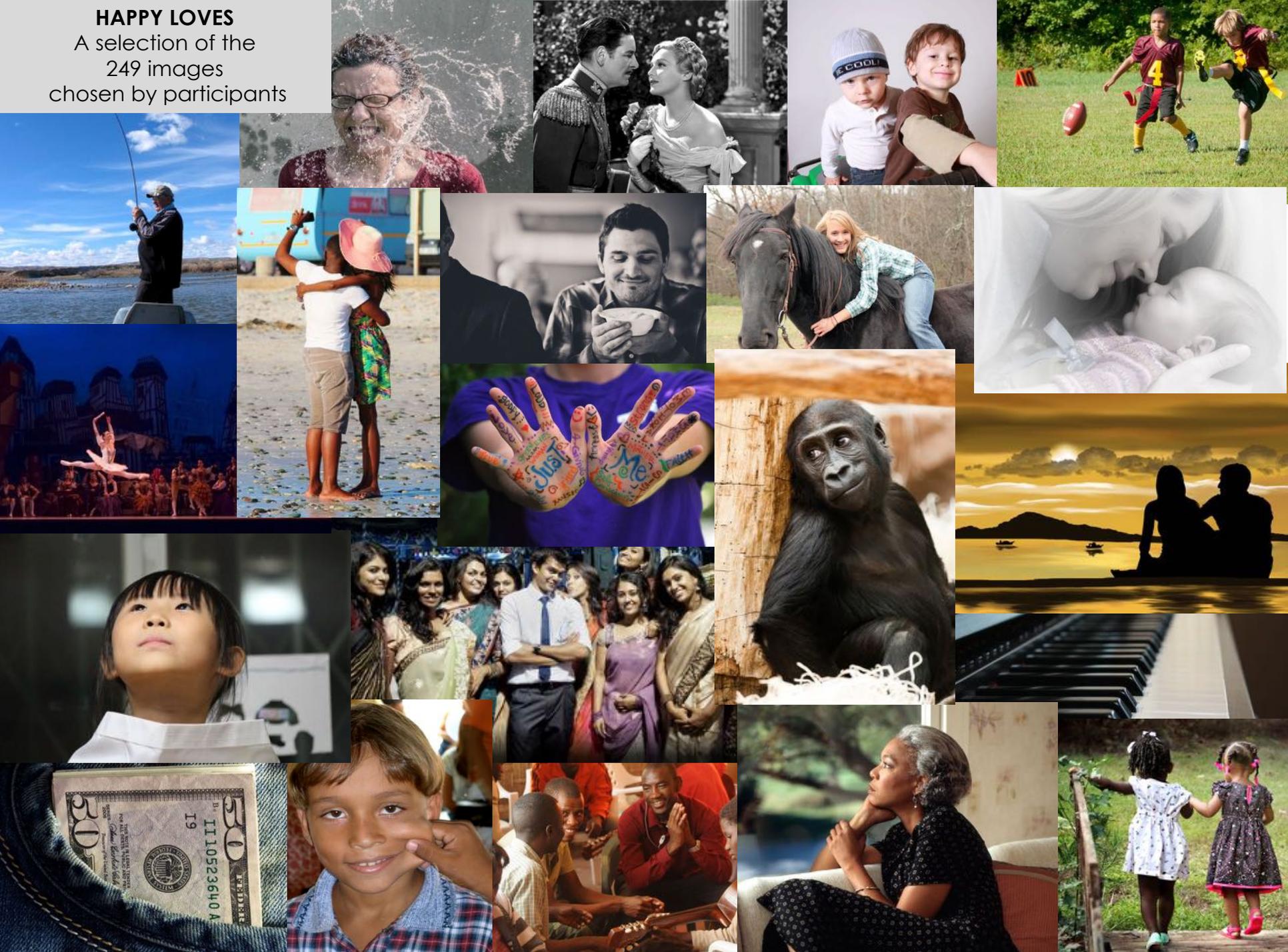
Note: The images on the next pages are illustrative and were chosen by students and parents.

Emotional Themes across All Ten Questions Related to Life and Spirituality.

HAPPY LOVES

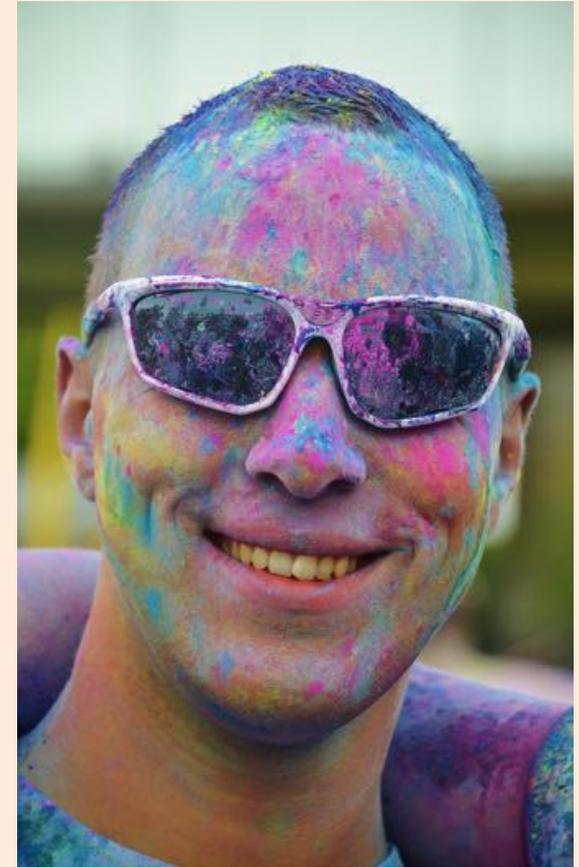


HAPPY LOVES
A selection of the
249 images
chosen by participants



HAPPY LOVES

The images selected by both students and parents suggest that they are pursuing happiness in the various loves of their daily life and relationships. Participants in all groups reported wanting to feel happy. The longing for happy loves appears important across most all of their relationships.



PREFER TO BE SEEN:
happy, confident (897)

HOPEFUL IMAGINATION

A selection of the
70 images
chosen by participants



HOPEFUL IMAGINATION

Images selected by both students and parents suggest that they are on an imaginative journey to become new innovators in a new world—a new global world order. These innovations focus how they view what it means to be fully human and how we can live together on a sustainable planet. Their hopeful imaginations reflect rapid technological changes required for a re-creating of what it means to human within our ecosystem. These new innovations show a rootedness in the mysteries of quantum realities rather than classical certainty. Their image choices show levels of paradoxical, cyclical reasoning of “both-and even with seeming contradiction.” These images of hope imagination show them thriving on emotions that foster their imaginations. Spiritual myths are often present in their imaginative journeys.



TODAY: creative, colorful; living in a different world (169)

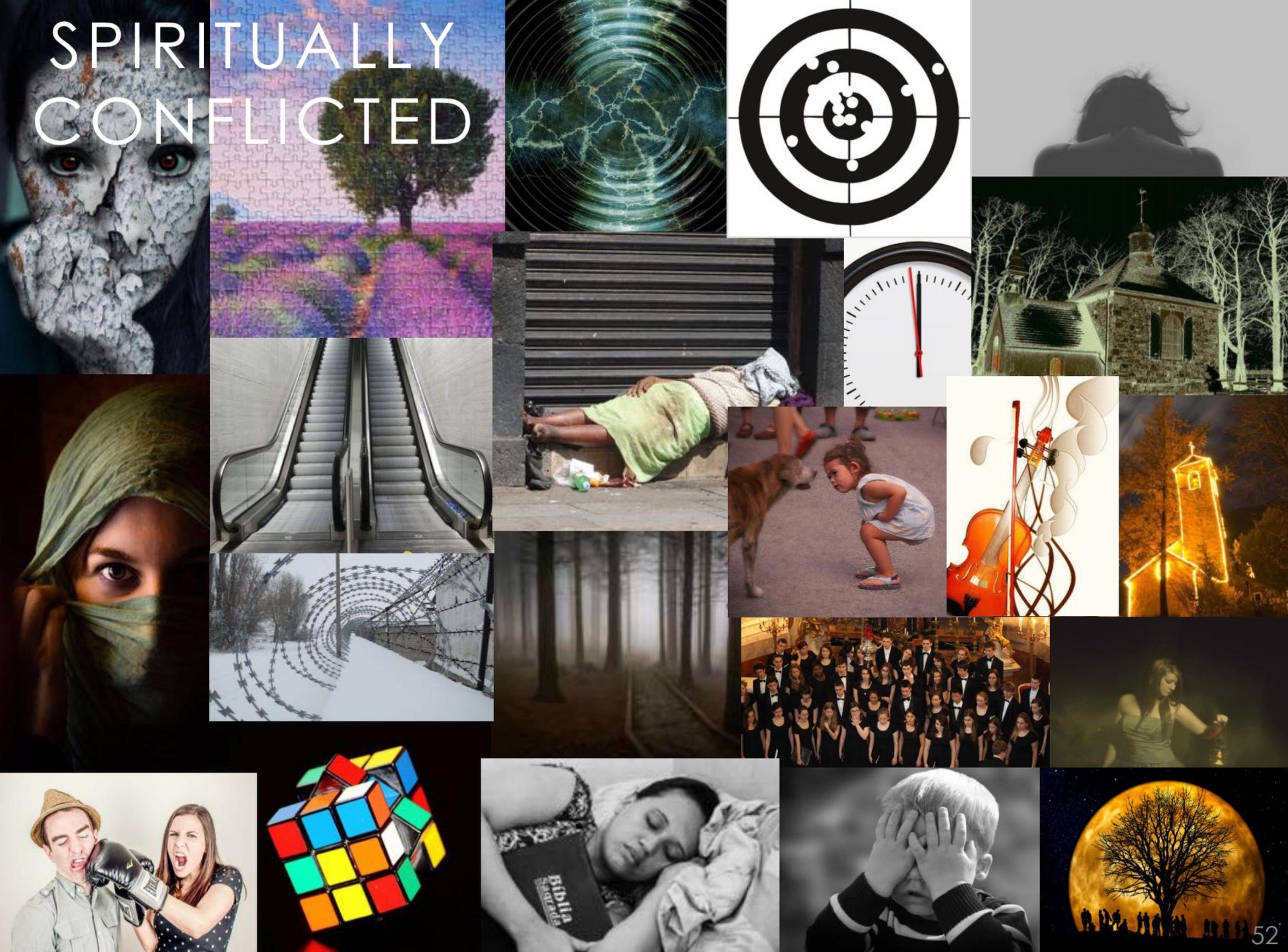
HECTIC STRESSED

The images selected by both students and parents suggest that they experience high levels of stress. These stresses come from deadlines, test, money, pollution, nuclear threats, etc. Images chosen often show stress without help from family, friends, church, government or God. The stresses feel hectic and frantic with no way out.



TODAY: frantic, hectic, stress, number of things that need to be done (698) (-5)

SPIRITUALLY CONFLICTED



SPIRITUALLY CONFLICTED

A selection of the
47 images
chosen by participants



SPIRITUALLY CONFLICTED

The images selected by both students and parents suggest that they are spiritually conflicted. However, no groups indicated that spirituality was a driving part of their lives. Though God can be galactic love to them, their experience with him was also described as unconnected. Jesus is mostly viewed positively, but he is also associated with a dark church and with Christians who are too concerned about appearances. The Holy Spirit is both perfect and dull at the same time. And the Bible is a book that is powerful and yet mean. The Bible was also not seen as relevant for life. Students and parents alike seem to be in the process of checking God out to decide his relevance and trustworthiness in today's world.

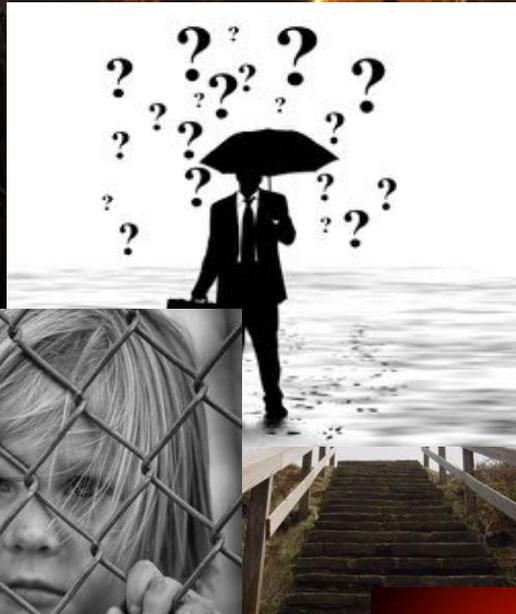
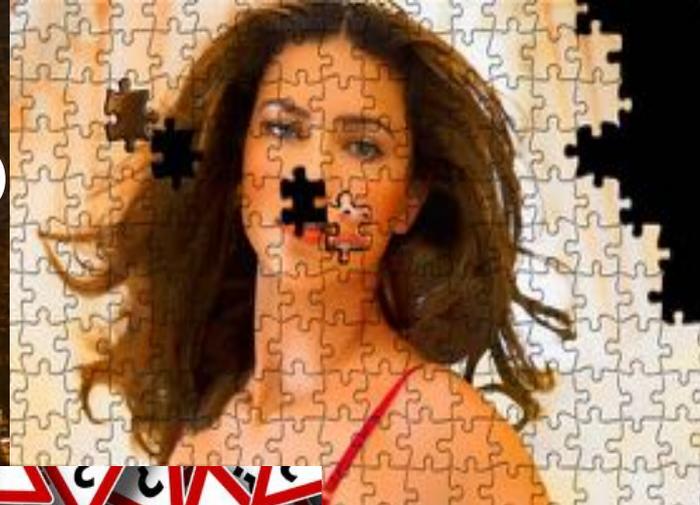


GOD: eyeball test; who is looking at who
(825) (-3)



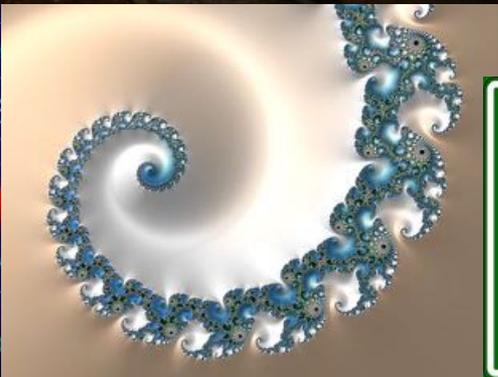
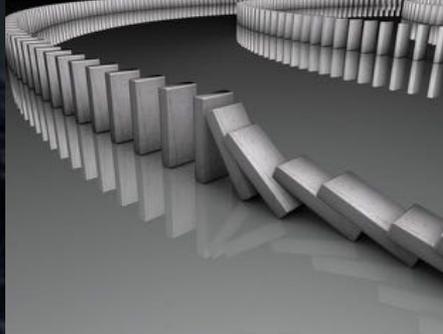
JESUS: church, dark (67)

OFTEN DISORIENTED



OFTEN DISORIENTED

A selection of the
50 images
chosen by participants



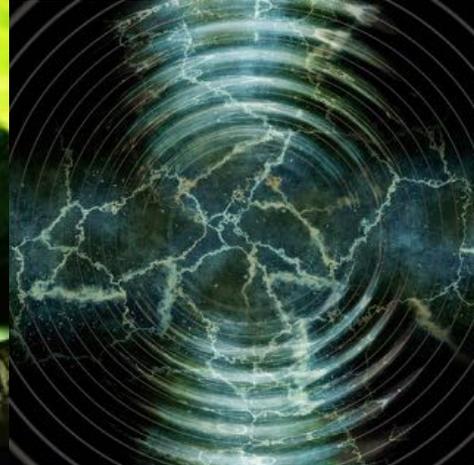
OFTEN DISORIENTED

The images selected by both students and parents suggest that they have an uncertain pathway forward in life. This uncertainty leads to confusion which adds to their stress. They are disoriented by the increasing quantity and conflicting nature of the options before them. This disorientation impacts career directions and personal identity issues. Often life seems to be going in different directions with no clear choice—pieces seem to be missing or misplaced. Life is described as a continuous power struggle.



TODAY: all the ?'s piled high; layers upon layers; too many to count (681)

HIDING SHAME



HIDING SHAME

A selection of
36 images
chosen by participants



CHILDHOOD VULNERABILITY



HIDING SHAME

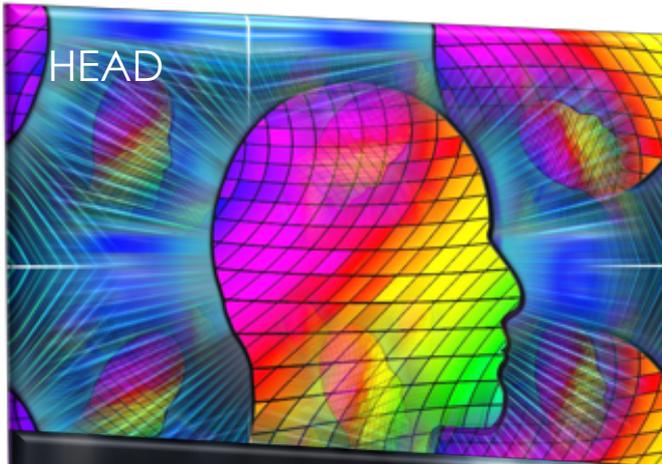
The human reaction to feeling shame is often to hid or mask our flawed sense of identity. The student and parent participants chose images that reflect a strategy of hiding one's true self. Though not as frequent as happy loves or the other emotional themes, the theme of hiding/masking shame surfaced frequently. In the future, they would like to be transformed—to break free from their current flawed identity.



FUTURE: transformation, realization, breaking free, bright (850)

Head and Heart

SUMMARY



BELIEF TOPICS: Students and Parents

1. My Life
2. My Spirituality

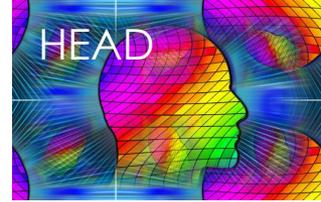
The heart and the mind interact together as we make life and spiritual choices.



EMOTIONAL THEMES: Students and Parents

1. Happy Loves
2. Hopeful Imagination
3. Hectic Stress
4. Spiritually Conflicted
5. Often Disoriented
6. Hiding Shame

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – Female and Male



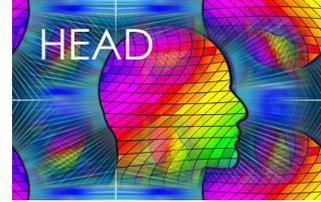
MY LIFE

1. EARLY LIFE for these female and male students was both **fun** and a **distant memory of family unity**.
2. These students indicate LIFE TODAY in the **fast lane is full of options, stress, and confusion** which is somewhat sad to them.
3. The FUTURE HOPES of female students are **fragile and fragmented** and for male students there is **little hope of true integration**.
4. Spending **time alone in nature** is VERY IMPORTANT to these students.
5. Female and male students PREFER OTHERS SEE THEM as having **fun with a few friends** even as they **hide their true selves**.

MY SPIRITUALITY

6. Both female and male students experience GOD somewhat positively yet they have a diminished view of the Triune God as **galactic love** and **tender helper** and yet **cold beauty** and a **locked door**.
7. JESUS is a **mysterious helper of God** and a **strong fighter** Who is **endless and beautiful**. He brings new life for all peoples.
8. The HOLY SPIRIT is at **work in God's creation** as a generous, sweet builder.
9. The BIBLE is experienced as **powerful and confusing**—a place to learn something new.
10. GOOD CHRISTIANS **spread light** and are often **dress people** (look good on the outside).

PARENTS with Children Under 14 - Female And Male



My Life

1. EARLY LIFE for these parents was full of **curiosity and simple pleasures** even as they were **alone** much of the time.
2. These parents indicate LIFE TODAY is full of **unresolvable stresses** as they work to **build something worthwhile** and **balance life**.
3. The FUTURE HOPES of parents include **family life and global-local wholeness**.
4. **Family life, inner life and spiritual life** are VERY IMPORTANT to these parents.
5. Female and male parents PREFER OTHERS SEE THEM as **happy, caring, smart and having no worries**.

My Spirituality

6. Both female and male parents experience GOD as **trustworthy** and **tender loving**, but they are also **uncertain** of their standing with God Who is **forever watching**.
7. JESUS is viewed a **humble helper, gentle friend and teacher of life**; yet they see the **leap of faith** to trust Jesus is undesirable.
8. The HOLY SPIRIT is **multi-faceted, surprising, mysterious and transformative**—the Spirit's work is viewed very positively.
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EMOTIONAL THEMES

*Students
and Parents*



Positive Expressions

Happy
Loves



Hopeful
Imagination

HECTIC STRESS is an emotional reality that pervades both students and parents. This stress is very personal while also extending to global issues including fear of catastrophic destruction.

HECTIC STRESS



Positive expressions of stress include pursuing happy loves and hopeful imagination. In the midst of stress, happiness and imagination are valued.

*Paradoxical
Landscape of the
Heart*

Spiritually
Conflicted?



Often
Disoriented

Negative expressions of stress include being spiritually conflicted and often disoriented in life as well as hiding from shame. A pathway forward that is sustainable and meaningful is elusive.

Negative Expressions

Hiding
Shame



Paradoxical expressions. Taken together these positive and negative expressions seem paradoxical—this dissonance is often a state of human experience.

Heart Starting Points for Students and Parents



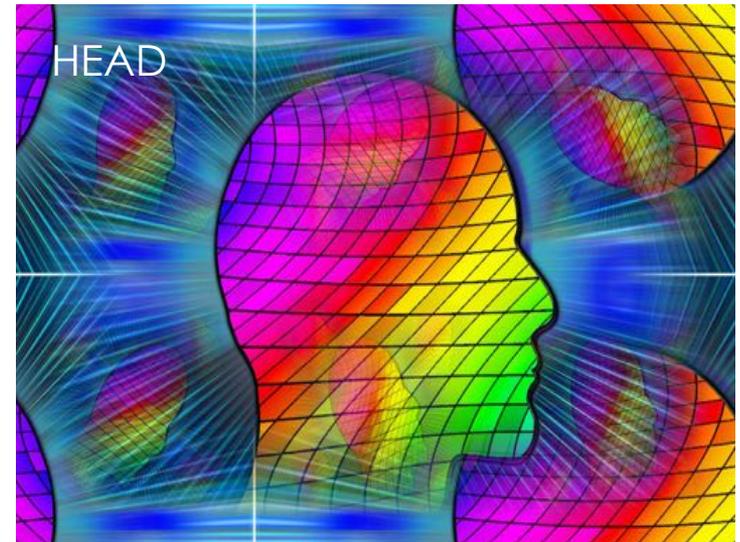
For Easy Memory: **HIS - C D S**

FINAL THOUGHTS

These findings are offered as a way to help connect the Gospel of Jesus with the starting points of students and parents: their **HEAD and HEART STARTING POINTS**.

Not all students and parents will have these exact beliefs and emotional themes. However, these findings can help those who minister be better listeners and help connect these starting points with the Bible as students and parents seek to follow Jesus.

These findings can also help inform development of preaching, curriculum and programs as well as personal and group conversations.



Contact Information

For additional information,
contact:

Dr. Nancy Going
ngoing@vibrantfaith.org
www.vibrantfaith.com

Ralph Ennis
ralphennis@gmail.com
www.ralphennis.com

