marri Research

MARRIAGE & RELIGION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*Illustrating the way God made man*

# The Effect of Parents on Their Child's Piety*

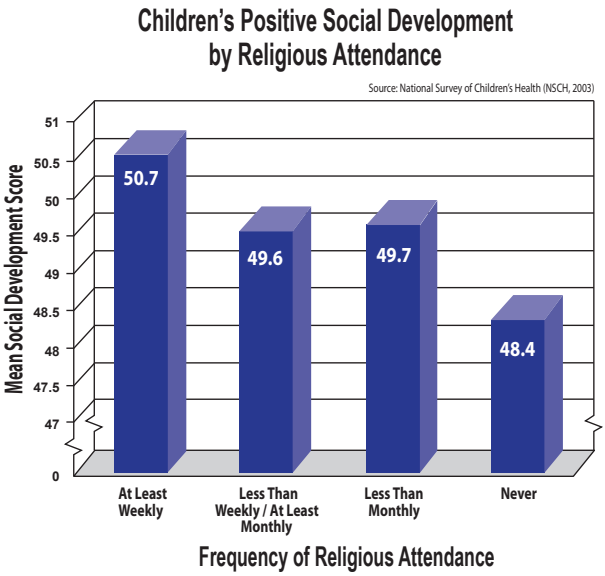
*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* *Proverbs 22:6*

**Parents' religious behavior and spiritual conversations play a significant role in their adolescent child's religious life--even more influential than schooling, peers, or other religious mentors. Social science research demonstrates this in many ways:**

- Teenagers whose parents actively practice their faith and speak about religion in their families are more likely to be involved in religious youth groups.
- Parents who attend church have a more positive influence on their children's own attendance, than friends and other family members do.
- Adolescents with parents who attend worship regularly and who consider religion important are more likely to engage in private religious activities, such as prayer and scripture reading.
- Adolescents whose parents are religiously very active are more likely to be religiously mature, have a deeper knowledge of their beliefs and integrate their faith more into their daily lives.

## Given the influence that parents have on their children, what can you do to bring your child closer to God?

We see in the accompanying chart that parents can foster a positive environment for their children by leading their families in regular worship. Children's social lives, not just their spiritual lives, are bolstered by worship.




For links to the research behind these statements, please visit www.marri.us/churchbulletins

*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.

MA14J47

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
ILLUSTRATING THE WAY GOD MADE MAN

# The Effect of Parents on Their Child's Piety*

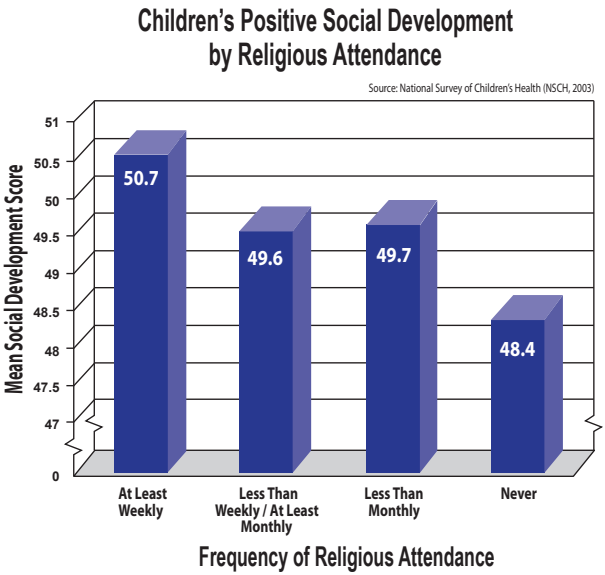
*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* *Proverbs 22:6*

**Parents' religious behavior and spiritual conversations play a significant role in their adolescent child's religious life--even more influential than schooling, peers, or other religious mentors. Social science research demonstrates this in many ways:**

- Teenagers whose parents actively practice their faith and speak about religion in their families are more likely to be involved in religious youth groups.
- Parents who attend church have a more positive influence on their children's own attendance, than friends and other family members do.
- Adolescents with parents who attend worship regularly and who consider religion important are more likely to engage in private religious activities, such as prayer and scripture reading.
- Adolescents whose parents are religiously very active are more likely to be religiously mature, have a deeper knowledge of their beliefs and integrate their faith more into their daily lives.

## Given the influence that parents have on their children, what can you do to bring your child closer to God?

We see in the accompanying chart that parents can foster a positive environment for their children by leading their families in regular worship. Children's social lives, not just their spiritual lives, are bolstered by worship.




For links to the research behind these statements, please visit www.marri.us/churchbulletins

*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.