

## An Epidemic on Our Hands: Not What You'd Expect

*Already Gone* by Ken Ham & Britt Beemer

To begin the study of this trend (of kids leaving church at a younger age), Britt Beemer chose a depth at which the basic cause could be found. Using several “watershed questions”, he discovered the following:

Q. Do you believe all the accounts/stories in the Bible are true / accurate?

A. A full 38% of people who left the church answered “yes”, 44% answered “no”; 18% didn't know...

Q. Do you attend church on Easter or Christmas?

A. 49% answered “no”; 51% “yes”

Of those that attend these events (48%); the following percentage responded “yes” to the following questions:

Q. Do you believe all the books of the Bible are inspired by God? 72.8% said “yes”

Q. Do you believe in creation as described in the Bible? 87.2% said “yes”

Q. Do you believe that you are saved and will go to heaven upon death? 72.2% said “yes”



**More detailed questions were included – so as to establish the knowledge, learning and understanding of the surveyed; but I chose not to include such details...**

When ask about the future: Do you expect to attend church regularly when you have children? 38% said “yes”, 32% “no” and 30% did not know...

Through this extensive battery of questions and data, Britt came to the follow conclusion:

**Belief in the Bible is a major predictor of behavior** (or of the choice to attend to not attend church in the present...and the future).

Having established some base in which to draw the conclusions – the relationship or positive correlation between Bible-belief and church activity, **what can be done to increase belief...and attendance or activity?**

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Calling a recommendation an “application point”, the authors suggest:

1. To defend and teach the Bible from the very first verse – the great need for practical and relevant **apologetics** teaching for all ages.
2. To live an authentic, biblically-based Christian life as individuals and as a church, so people will see Christ reflected in all that's done. Stop the **hypocrisy!**

To step back in the later part of this chapter, the data summarized above was developed through interviews with 1,000 20 year olds; these young folk were ask 78 questions of the general theme represented in the questions above. Other details of the sample were not available or were not included in the summary of this writing.