

## **Great news for Parents! Too good to be true (but it is)-**

What if I told you there was a well-researched and statistically proven program that can:

- increase the average life expectancy of your children by 8 years
- significantly reduce their use and risk from Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
- dramatically lower their risk of suicide
- help them rebound from depression 70% faster
- dramatically reduce their risk for committing a crime
- improve their attitude at school and increase their school participation
- reduce their risk for rebelliousness
- reduce the likelihood that they would binge drink in college
- improve their odds for a "very happy" life
- provide them with a life-long moral compass

## **Is there such a program?**

Yes, there is. And it is supported by research from Duke University, Indiana University, The University of Michigan, The Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group, and the National Institute for Healthcare Research. To view the sources of these statistics, visit [www.sundaysoftware.com/stats.htm](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/stats.htm)

## **How much would a program like this be worth to you?**

What if I told you it was free, and only took about 2 hours a week and it is available right now.

Take a look at the list again. It's not a dream. The program is called "**active church participation.**"

In study, after study, after study, children who actively engage in a church and attend Sunday School on a regular basis are rewarded with SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of problems and risks, and significantly improved odds of a happier, healthier, longer life. These studies show the same results for adults as well.

**To increase the odds of receiving these results, you can't wait.** According to a Barna Research Group study, adults who attended church regularly as children are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church today as their peers who avoided church during childhood (61% to 22%, respectively). In other words, parents who truly

want the best for their children should get their children involved at church now and regularly.

Our secular culture has taken up preaching "parents (as) the anti-drug," promoting D.A.R.E. programs, school uniforms, afterschool programs, and athletics as solutions to various ills. And yet, a whole host of problems plaguing young people have only become worse over the last 30 years. Perhaps not so coincidentally, Sunday School attendance has fallen over that same period. The latest tremor to rock the "what works" lobby has been several studies that indicate D.A.R.E. and its 700 million dollar budget doesn't work.

In a search for "what works," researchers keep turning up "active participation" in a "faith community" as the one consistent potent factor in raising up children in the way they should go.

But you know this already. Right? If you don't maybe its time to start. Maybe it's time to rediscover what God has been instructing His children for over 6,000 years.

*"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" **Matthew 7:9***

*"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds ... teach them to your children"*  
**Duet.11:18**

*" We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear it and learn it"* Luther's explanation to the Third Commandment

In Our Savior Jesus Christ,

Robert Auger, DCE