

The Secret Life of Teens

Friday, February 12, 7:00-9:30pm

Metro Church, 1491 E. State Road 434, Winter Springs

One of the most common questions asked of young children is "What do you want to be when you grow up?" From the earliest age we focus attention on the inevitable process of children marching toward adulthood. Not surprisingly, all children have a natural desire to grow up and move toward independence. And the simple reality is that as children go through the growth process they separate themselves from their parents and interact more and more with peers and outsiders.

Added to this natural reality is the technologically advanced world in which we live. Today, we have things at our fingertips that previous generations could have only dreamed about. Information and communication are instantaneous, visual content and social networks are everywhere. The ready availability of all this information means that children are exposed to far more information at an increasingly earlier age, it is a simple by-product of our society. The idea of an "innocent" child seems to be fading from our experience.

These two realities create a potentially volatile situation for young people and their families because they are candidates to be shaped by whatever forces come to bear on their lives. The passion and potential of youth, properly informed and channeled, are a blessing; improperly directed, they are a curse.

Parents know from their own life experience that teens live secret lives; unfortunately, many parents naively believe their children will be the exception rather than the rule. Awareness, understanding, and grace are essential ingredients if parents are to help their teens successfully navigate the adolescent years.

Join us as we investigate the secret life of teens. Our special guest for the evening is Johnny LaLonde. Johnny will team with Jim and Linda Werner, founders of Circle Christian School and parents of five adult children, to present vital information and present practical helps on this important subject.

Cost is \$ 5.00 per person (payable in cash or check) at the door. This event is open to all parents; encourage others to attend with you. Adults only, children will not be admitted.

Johnny LaLonde is Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern who earned his Master's degree in Counseling from Reformed Theological Seminary. Prior to his time at RTS, Johnny studied in the Master's Program at Rollins College and earned his B.S. in Psychology from the University of Central Florida. He is currently on staff with University Presbyterian Church where his primary responsibilities include counseling individuals, couples, families and groups.

Johnny has a passion for seeing people grow. He believes that growth occurs in the presence of love and that the truth of the Gospel has the power to turn growth into transformation. He and his wife Christy have been married for two and a half years. Johnny has partnered with Circle Christian School because of a shared belief in the importance of growth through grace.

To read more about Johnny, you can visit his web site at www.theversogroup.com.

