

Over-Churched Kids Case Studies

Case #1 (10 year old PK from South Georgia)

Hi, my name is Amy. You probably already know my daddy, he's the pastor of this church. I've been coming since I was a baby. My momma says I've only missed 2 Sundays these past 10 years. Sometimes I think I know more about the Bible than most grown-ups in this church. Just last week I had to straighten out my Sunday School teacher. She got to talking about Noah and the Whale, but everyone knows it was a giant fish and the man's name was Jonah. Seriously, that one should be easy because they named a whole Bible book after the man. I've been praying that God would help these people learn their Bible at this church, I guess we're still waiting for that one to get answered. Anyway, it's so nice to meet you all and we'd love for you to visit our church if you're ever in town.

Case #2 (10 year old boy from Indiana)

Hello, my name is Elijah. My momma teaches Sunday School and I go to the Christian Academy. I guess you could say I know a lot about the Bible. My dad even reads out of different story Bibles after dinner. I guess this helps my little brother learn the stories, but I think it's a little boring. I just wish they would make some new episodes like they do with TV shows. I mean, how can they expect kids to pay attention when it's just the same stories every time at church. ... Well, that's all I want to say.

Case #3 (12 year old girl from Kentucky)

Hello, my name is Becca and I love going to church. My favorite part is the music. I've been singing in the choir since I was 10 and the music minister says I'll be ready for a solo in the Christmas Cantata. Sometimes I wish I could marry a preacher when I grow up so I can stay at church all the time. It's like God gave me these gifts so I could shine a light for other people, that way they can see how wonderful it is to sing praises to Jesus. ... If you want, I can sing a song for you right now.

Case #4 (9 year old former PK girl from Tennessee)

Hi, my name is Jodi. My family just had to move into an apartment because my daddy doesn't work at the church anymore. Now he works down at the bank helping people buy houses. I'm not sure why he quit being a preacher. I do remember my momma would cry sometimes when she laid out her Sunday dress. There was something about a meeting with the Dee-Canners, I think that's what people call them, they're the older men who smoke outside during Sunday School. Anyway, the Dee-Canners had some big meeting and told my daddy he couldn't be the preacher anymore. I guess I'll understand all that better when I'm older. Right now I just miss my friends at our old church. If you see Katie, can you tell her I said "Hi."

Case #5 (10 year old boy from Ohio)

Hi, my name is Michael. I'll tell you a secret if you don't let it get back to my mom. I'm really not into all that churchy stuff, mostly I get sleepy when the preacher talks at church. Once I tried to tell my mom that our church was boring. She got real upset and started crying and praying for my soul. She sat right on my bed asking God to keep me out of hell. I wasn't too worried but I did wish she'd stop crying. After a few nights of that I thought it might make her feel better if I got baptized. That really cheered her up. She even taught me to say prayers at dinner time, especially when we have company. It's not that I don't believe in God, it's just all the churchy stuff feels like make believe or something. Hey, if you ever do see my mom promise to keep all this a secret. Thanks, I knew I could trust you.