

**Methodological Design and Procedures for the
National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR)
Personal Interviews – Wave 2**

The second phase of Wave 2 of the data collection of the National Study of Youth and Religion involved in-depth personal interviews with 122 teens. The purpose of the interviews was to provide extended follow-up discussion about teens' religious, spiritual, family, and social lives, especially in contrast to the responses they might have given in Wave 1. The questionnaire included much of that from Wave 1 with the addition of several new subjects of interest and the elimination of some sections that had not proved helpful in analysis. Interviews were conducted almost exclusively in person and were digitally recorded. They lasted an average of 107 minutes with a range of 43 to 237 minutes. Respondents were given a \$40 cash incentive to complete the interviews. The majority of the in-person interviews were conducted between June and September 2005 with several conducted during December 2005. All interview subjects were selected from the 267 teens who had given in-person interviews in Wave 1; additionally, all subjects were required to participate in the NSYR's phone survey before they could complete the in-person interview.

Our sampling strategy was to replicate the Wave 1 sample, which represented a range of demographic and religious characteristics and took into account region, urban/suburban/rural, age, sex, race, household income, religion, and school type. We clustered the respondents with whom we were still in contact into geographic areas for ease of travel in interviewing. The time lapse between a teen completing the Wave 2 telephone survey and completing a personal interview ranged from one day to four months. Therefore, for some, the Wave 2 personal interview came two years after the Wave 1 interview, while for others the interviews were nearly three years apart. Thus, the Wave 1 age range of thirteen to eighteen changed to fifteen to 21 with a mean age of nearly eighteen.

Sixteen different interviewers conducted interviews in 28 states, each interviewer conducting between three and seventeen interviews with a mean of seven. Twelve of the original interviewers returned for Wave 2, and respondents were matched with their original interviewers as much as possible. The majority of the 122 Wave 2 interviews were matched on gender and race, and all of the black respondents in the sample were interviewed by minority interviewers. Because of the sensitive nature of the interview questions asked of teens, prior to interview data collection, the NSYR renewed the Certificate of Confidentiality from the U.S. NICHD, obtained in Wave 1, to protect the data from subpoena.

All sixteen interviewers participated in a day-long training meeting. The training covered the logistics of the interview process, procedural requirements, IRB concerns, the protection of human participants, safety and liability concerns, a review and discussion of the interview questionnaire, keys to interview success and the proper use of the digital recording equipment. In addition to that training, all interviewers were required to obtain a Human Participants Training Certificate through the U.S. NIH website.

The sixteen project interviewers were assigned to sets of specific geographic locations around the U.S. Each interviewer was provided with groups of Contact Sheets for teens in their assigned geographic areas. The contact sheets included respondent name, respondent nickname (if known), parent name, address, phone number, respondent birth date, respondent gender, respondent race, household income, religious affiliation, and religious denomination or tradition. The Contact Sheet also included space to note any changes to the contact information provided (new phone number, additional email address, etc.) and provided a call record. Interviewers recorded each household contact, noting the date, time, with whom they spoke, and the content of each contact. In addition to the original sample, as the project progressed through the interviews, the priorities shifted somewhat according to what types of respondent interviews were still needed. In this way, we attempted to match the demographics of Wave 1.

In addition to the demographic information on the Contact Sheet, interviewers were also asked to review the transcript of the Wave 1 in-person interview. Because the Wave 2 survey was conducted concurrently with the in-person interviews, the respondents' survey information was not available at the time of the interviews. If the interviewer had not conducted the Wave 1 interview with a particular respondent, the Wave 1 transcript provided background information about that teen to help facilitate a smooth interview.

Using a standard call script provided by the NSYR, interviewers made contact with potential interviewee households. Interviewers identified themselves as researchers with the "National Youth Study." The full name of the research project was not used in order to avoid introducing any bias by identifying religion as a key focus of the study. It was often helpful for interviewers to explain their connection with the project such as graduate student, co-investigator, etc.. However, since much of the interview was about religion and we did not want to bias the answers of the respondents, interviewers were instructed to avoid divulging revealing information about our own personal beliefs and commitments (about which there was considerable diversity on the interviewing team).

Interviewers were required to obtain verbal consent to conduct the interview from the respondent and, if the respondent was under eighteen, both a parent and the teen. If parents or respondents seemed hesitant about participating, an additional script provided more information about the project and offered the phone number for the principal investigator, whom they could (and sometimes did) call with questions or concerns. In addition, interviewers offered to mail to hesitant respondents written information about the project and then call back in a few days. Interviewers worked hard to obtain consent from the parents. In a very few cases when a respondent seemed reluctant to participate or was hesitant about the time commitment, an additional incentive was offered. However, in cases when respondents refused to participate even after being offered additional information, interviewers made no further attempts to convert those who refused. Upon receiving verbal consent from the respondent and parent (if necessary) and scheduling an interview time, interviewers mailed packets of information to households. The packet contained a cover letter from the principle investigator, multiple copies of respondent and

parent (if necessary) written consent form(s), and an appointment card including a portrait photo of the interviewer. Interviewees were required to bring the copies of the written consent form with them to their interviews, signed by themselves and a parent, if necessary. Interviewers also called the respondents at least one week prior to the interview and again the day before the interview to confirm that they were still planning to participate in the interview.

Interviews were conducted in public settings that nevertheless provided confidentiality for the respondent. The ideal location for these interviews was in study rooms at local libraries. However, when they were not available, interviews were also conducted in restaurants, coffee shops, mall food courts, and outdoor settings. Interviewers were given guidelines for how to present themselves during the interviews as well as appropriate attire to be worn in order to ensure consistency in the presentation of interviewers across the interviews. Specifically, interviewers did not attempt to “relate” to respondents by dressing down or dressing in a more “trendy” fashion. Instead, we built rapport by presenting ourselves as professional researchers with a sincere interest in young people’s lives.

At the close of the interview, teens were given a \$40 cash incentive for their participation and in appreciation of their time and effort. Interviewers also followed up interviews with hand-written thank-you notes mailed to respondents.

The final sample of interviews included 122 complete interviews selected from 250 potential contacts. Out of the remaining 123 cases, 70 were purposely never contacted, and an additional fourteen were unable to be contacted (including four who were displaced from their homes after Hurricane Katrina). Eighteen could not be interviewed in person because they had failed to complete the phone survey, and seventeen interviews failed for reasons such as scheduling problems and emergencies. One interview was only partially completed. Three respondents refused to participate.

The table on the following page provides the demographics of the 122 completed interviews. With the exception of age, the table reflects the demographic information that was collected at the time of the Wave 1 telephone survey. The age listed is the age of the teen at the time of the personal interview.

Table 1
NSYR Wave 2 Personal Interview Demographics

GENDER	N	REGION	N
Female	56	Midwest	20
Male	66	Northeast	18
		South	36
		West	40
AGE		RELIGION	
15	3	Protestant	59
16	29	<i>Baptist</i>	15
17	21	<i>Bible Church</i>	1
18	25	<i>Brethren</i>	1
19	22	<i>Calvary Chapel</i>	1
20	14	<i>Charismatic</i>	1
21	1	<i>CMA</i>	1
		<i>Christian or Just Christian</i>	14
RACE		<i>Church of the Nazarene</i>	2
White	82	<i>Evangelical Free Church</i>	1
Hispanic	15	<i>Lutheran</i>	6
Black	11	<i>Methodist</i>	5
Asian	4	<i>Non-Denominational</i>	5
Native American	2	<i>Presbyterian</i>	4
Other	3	Catholic	25
		Mormon	6
HOUSEHOLD INCOME		Jewish	8
Less than \$10,000	2	Buddhist	1
\$10,000-\$20,000	5	Muslim	1
\$20,000-\$30,000	9	Hindu	2
\$30,000-\$40,000	6	Eastern Orthodox	1
\$40,000-\$50,000	17	Other	1
\$50,000-\$60,000	12	Not Religious	18
\$60,000-\$70,000	12		
\$70,000-\$80,000	9		
\$80,000-\$90,000	4		
\$90,000-\$100,000	7		
More than \$100,000	22		
Don't know	5		
Refused	3		

NSYR 2005 In-person Interview (Wave 2)
Interview Guide

****GET SIGNED CONSENT FORM****

****START RECORDER & CHECK THAT IT IS RECORDING****

INTRODUCTION

- Thanks for agreeing to do this interview and taking the time to talk with me.
- It's great that you participated in our phone survey again and that we can do this second in-person interview.
- We use these interviews to really hear from your perspective, and in your own words, how your life is going, your opinions, beliefs, and experiences.
- Some of what we may talk about today is pretty personal, but we're interviewing lots of young people and all of your lives together tell us a lot about what it's like to become a young adult today.
- In the next few hours, I would like to just have a conversation with you about your life, experiences, beliefs, feelings, hopes, problems--whatever is important to you.
- I really want you to just feel at ease to talk freely and honestly with me.
- **Everything you say is totally confidential--unless you tell me you're going to badly hurt someone else or yourself, or that an adult is badly hurting you--otherwise, whatever you say is kept completely confidential.**
- This is a chance for you to talk openly about whatever you want to say, to express whatever ideas or feelings you have, to talk about things that might be too uncomfortable to tell other people.
- There really are no right or wrong answers, I just want to know whatever you honestly think or feel.
- **You may decline to answer any questions you don't want to talk about. That is fine. Just let me know.**
- Once in awhile, I'm going to ask about how things have been or changed over the past couple of years. I'm referring to the time since [we/you and the other interviewer] last talked. Try to think back to that point in time and how things have been since then.
- Just to warn you, I may jot something down to remind myself to ask you something later, and I will have to check every now and then to make sure the recorder is still going, but I'll still be listening, so go ahead and keep talking.
- OK, let's get started.

GENERAL UPDATE

* Overall, how has life changed since we last interviewed you?

HOUSEHOLD/LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

* What, if anything, has changed with where you live, or who you live with, in the past couple of years (moves, divorces/separations, cohabitation, marriage)?

NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

- Have you moved at all? Where to? Why?
 - IF YES: How far of a move was it? Was it to a very different place?
 - IF YES: Did anyone move with you? Your whole family?
- Has anyone you lived with moved out? Anyone moved in? Where to? Why?

FOR ALL CHANGES:

- * What were the reasons for/circumstances around [-----]?
- * What do you see as the positives and/or negatives of [-----]?
- * How has [-----] affected your life?

IF EVER LIVED APART FROM [PARENTS]:

- * Are you now or have you ever lived with a boyfriend or girlfriend?
- * IF YES: With how many boyfriends/girlfriends have you ever lived together?
- * IF ONLY ONCE:
 - When did you move in together? Before that, how long had you been together?
 - What were the reasons you decided to move in together?
 - IF IT ENDED: Why did your relationship end? Was that hard on you? In what ways?
- * IF COHABED MULTIPLE TIMES:
 - When did you move in together with a girlfriend/boyfriend for the first time? Before that, how long had you been together?
 - What were the reasons you decided to move in together that first time?
- *IF IT ENDED: Why did your relationship end? Was that hard on you? In what ways?

FRIENDS

- * Are your closest friends people you've been friends with a long time? A short time?
- * What are your friends like?
 - Where do you know them from?
 - What do you have in common or not?
 - How good or bad of an influence are they on you?
- * How have your friendships gone over the past couple of years?
 - Have you had any major arguments or fights with friends? About what?
- * Do most of your friends all know each other pretty well, or do you have different groups of friends?
 - Describe the different groups.

- * How well do your [parents] know your friends?
- * What do you [parents] think of your friends? Do they like them or not? Why/why not?

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- * Describe your relationship with your [mother].
 - How do you feel about her?
 - How close do you feel? In what ways?
 - Do you talk with her much? About what? What topics do you avoid?
 - Do you argue or fight much with your [mother]? How much? What do you argue about about?
 - Tell me about a recent fight you had? What was is about? How did it go?
- * How, if at all, has your relationship with your [mother] changed in the past two years?
- * If you could change anything about your relationship with your [mother], what would it be?
- * IF NOT LIVING W/ MOTHER: How much do you see each other? When? How does it go?
- * Describe your relationship with your [father].
 - How do you feel about him?
 - How close do you feel to him? In what ways?
 - Do you talk with him much? About what? What topics do you avoid?
 - Do you argue or fight much with your [father]? How much? What do you argue about?
 - Tell me about a recent fight you had? What was is about? How did it go?
- * How, if at all, has your relationship with your [father] changed in the past two years?
- * If you could change anything about your relationship with your [father], what would it be?
- * IF NOT LIVING W/ FATHER: How much do you see each other? When? How does it go?
- * Are there any other key parent figures in your life?
- * IF YES, REPEAT ABOVE QUESTIONS FOR EACH PARENT FIGURE
- * How similar are your [parents] to you in terms of religious belief and participation?
 - Do you agree/disagree about religion?
 - Do you do religious things together?
 - Do you talk about religious things, beliefs, or issues?
- * Do you think your [parents] are happy with how you are religiously, or do they wish you thought or did things differently?

NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

- Does religion influence your family relationships at all?
 - Does it give you something shared, does it create tension, or neither? How so?

* IF MORE THAN ONE PARENT FIGURE (NOT NECESSARILY LIVING TOGETHER):

How similar are your [parents] to each other in terms of religious belief and participation?

- Do they agree/disagree about religion? Do religious things together? Talk about religion with each other?
- How do you think that might affect your family's life and relationships?
- IF DIFFERENT: Do you feel pressure to be more like one than the other? How so?

* How well do your [parents] get along with each other?

- Do your [parents] set a good example for you in terms of how marriage/relationships should be?
- In what ways? What could they do better?

* In general, how have the members of your household gotten along with each other the last couple of years [general atmosphere of home life]?

* What have been some of the biggest challenges for your family in the past couple of years?

ADULT INVOLVEMENTS

* What other adults have been significant in your life in the past couple of years? How so? (Relatives, teachers, coaches, bosses, [ministers], counselors, parents' friends)

MORALITY

* Imagine a distant relative died and left you \$100,000. What would you do with the money? Why? Is there anything else you might do with it?

* How do you decide or know what is good and bad, right and wrong in life?

- In general, is it easy or hard for you to decide between right and wrong?
- Has deciding between right and wrong gotten easier or harder over the past 2 years? Why?

* Can you tell me about a specific situation you've been in recently where you were unsure of what was right and wrong?

- How did you decide what to do?
- Was it hard or easy for you to make your decision?

* What do you think it is that *makes* something right or wrong?

- **[ONLY if stuck]** Is it rules or laws? Consequences? How it feels? God's will? Something else?
- **[Example probe for "consequences":** What *kinds* of consequences would make something wrong?]

- **[Example probe for “feelings”:** What kinds of feelings do you mean? Where do these feelings come from, in your view?]
- Are there any actions that are always wrong in themselves, or not?
[If yes] Can you give me some examples? What makes these things wrong?

* Some people say that there really are no final rights and wrongs in life, that everything is relative, that morality is simply what people make it. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

* From where have you acquired your moral views? Where do they come from?

* Have your views about right and wrong changed over the past 2 years, or not? Why? In what ways?

* In the past 2 years, have you been involved in any things that you think are wrong? What things?

- Why did you do that?
- How do you feel about that?
- What made that wrong?

* Some people say that the world is always changing and we should adjust our views of what is morally right and wrong to reflect those changes. What do you think of that view?

* Some people believe that it is sometimes okay to break moral rules if it works to your advantage and you can get away with it. What do you think about that? **[IF THINKS WRONG]** Why exactly is that wrong?

* Do you think people have any obligation to help others or not?

- **[If yes]** Can you give me some examples of ways we are obligated to help others? Why?
- What if someone just wasn't interested in helping others? Would that be a problem or no? Why?
- Are there things we are NOT obligated to do for others? Why?

* Some people we interview use the phrases “good person” or “bad person.” Do you tend to think in those terms?

- What do you think it means to be a good person?
 - What words would you use to describe a good person?
- Can you give me an example of a good person?
 - Why did you think of this person? What makes them a good person?
- What would it mean to be a “bad person”?
 - What words would you use to describe a bad person?
- Can you give me an example of a bad person?
 - **[If they name a historical figure/celebrity (e.g. Hitler)]** Have you ever known someone *personally* who you consider to be a bad person?

- Why did you think of this person? What makes them a bad person?
- * What would you say are the most important things in life?
 - How would you decide if a person really had a “good life” or not?
 - Can you give me an example of someone who has a good life? What makes their life good?
 - Can you give me an example of someone who has a bad life? What makes their life bad?
- * What do you think is the purpose of life?
 - Do you think you have a specific purpose in life? What is it?
- * If you could only accomplish one thing in your life, what would it be? Why?
- * If you could change one thing about today’s society, what would it be? Why?

WELL-BEING

- * How would you describe the kind of person you are?
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - What would your friends say about you?
- * What are the things in your life are you the most proud of?
- * Are there things you wish you could change about yourself?
 - What would you change? Are you working on it? Why or why not?
- * Do you think you are more satisfied with your life than you were two years ago or less satisfied?
 - What are the good parts about it? The bad parts?
- * What things in the last couple of years have made you the most happy/excited?
- * What things in the last couple of years have mad you the most sad/depressed?
- * Have you had any traumatic life experiences in the past couple of years?
 - Do you mind telling me about what happened?
 - Can you describe how this experience affected your life?
- * Do you think you feel depressed more often these days than you did a couple of years ago, or not?
 - IF YES: How often do you feel depressed and over what?
- * Do you feel like you have more or less control over your life than two years ago?
 - In what ways or why not? Examples?

* What is a typical week in your life like (PROBE ON SUMMER VS. SCHOOL YEAR FOR THOSE IN SCHOOL)?

- What kinds of things are you involved in?
- What do you spend your time doing?

* How does the pace of your life seem to you? Too fast? Too slow? Just right? How so?

* Do you think you are more or less happy with your body and physical appearance than you were two years ago?

- In what ways?
 - What specifically makes you happy/unhappy?
 - What would you change if you could?

* Do you like where your life has been headed the last couple of years or not? Why or why not?

* What has been the most significant challenge you've faced in the past couple of years?

- What was difficult about it?
- How did that affect your life?

* IF FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL A YEAR OR MORE AGO – What has been the hardest thing about life after high school? -- What has been the best thing?

SUBSTANCES

* In the last couple of years have you used alcohol, tobacco, pot, or other drugs? Which of these?

* IF YES, FOR ANY:

- When and why did you start using [---]?
- Why do you use [---] now?
- How often do you use [---]?
- Has your use changed much over the past couple of years, been up and down, or been fairly steady? What has been behind any changes?

* IF NO: Is there any particular reason that you don't do these things?

RELIGION

* How would you describe yourself to me in terms of your religion or spirituality?

- What religion are you?
- IF CHRISTIAN: What specific denomination or group would you consider yourself a part of?
 - What is unique about being [R's religion] (compared to other religions/affiliations)?

NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

- IF JEWISH: Do you consider yourself to be more culturally or religiously Jewish, or both? How so? How do you define “culturally” or “religiously”?
- What do you believe? What are your religious beliefs? [GIVE THEM TIME TO TRY TO EXPLAIN, DON’T RUSH INTO SPECIFIC PROMPTS]
 - Do you believe in God? IF YES: What is God like to you?
 - Do you believe in life after death? Heaven? Hell?
 - IF YES: What is afterlife/heaven/hell like? How do people get there?
- Do you attend religious services? Where? How often?
 - IF ATTENDS COLLEGE AWAY FROM HOME: Do you attend religious services when you are away at college? IF YES: Where and how did you locate that [church]?
- Are you involved in any youth group, college-age group, or other religious groups? Why? What does it mean to you?
- Do you pray? How often? What kinds of things do you pray for or about?
 - Do you have any examples of things you have prayed about lately? Did you feel like you got an answer? Do you ever? How so?
- Do you read the [Bible]? How often? Why? How, if at all, does it affect you?
- What other kinds of religious/spiritual practices/activities (at home, [church], anywhere) do you participate in?
- How much would you say religion is a part of your everyday life? In what ways?
- How big of an impact would you say religion/spirituality has on your life?
- Do you think your religion is the basis for how you live your life, or not? In what ways?

* Over the past couple of years, do you think you’ve become more religious, less religious, or stayed about the same? How so? What was behind the change? Was it a conscious change or not?

* Would other people you’ve known well over the past couple of years (like friends or family) say you’ve changed religiously/spiritually (become more or less)? Why or why not? What would they have seen in you to make them think that?

- Has your religion or affiliation changed? IF YES: How so? Why?
- Have any of your beliefs changed? IF YES: How so? Why is that?
- Have you changed [churches] at all? Why?
- Has your level of attendance at religious services or groups gone up or down? IF YES: How so? Why?
- Has your involvement in any youth group, college age, or other religious groups gone up or down? IF YES: In what ways? Why?
- Do you pray more or less? IF YES: What brought about that change?
- Do you read the [Bible] more or less? IF YES: Why is that?
- Have you changed in the frequency or importance of any other religious practices? IF YES: In what ways? Why did that happen?
- Has religion become more or less of the basis for how you live your life? IF YES: How

so?

- * IF CHANGES: How do you feel about these changes? Happy, sad, guilty, don't care?
- * Have you had doubts about religion in the past two years? More or less than before?
 - IF YES: What kind of doubts? Where do they come from?
 - Did you resolve them? IF SO, how? Do you talk to people about them? Who?
- * How hard or easy has it been to maintain your religious faith, or being the kind of religious person you want to be, over the past couple of years? In what ways?
 - Do you see it getting easier or more difficult in the future? How?
- * What, if anything, would it take (or what could stop you) from believing in your religious faith?
- * What have been the most important influences on your religion, faith, belief, or spirituality over the past two years? Events, experiences, people?
- * IF INVOLVED IN A YOUTH OR COLLEGE AGE RELIGIOUS GROUP: Tell me about your [---] group.
 - What kind of group is it? Church, school, independent?
 - Why did you choose and stay involved in this particular group?
 - How often does the group meet? For what kinds of meetings/events? What usually takes place? Tell me about the last event—what happened?
 - How many people are involved?
 - Does the group have a leader?
 - Do you like him/her? What are his/her strengths/weaknesses?
 - How big a part of your life is this group to you? In what ways?
 - Do you enjoy it? What do you get out of it?
- * Are there other religious groups you go to? What are they like?
- * IF NOT INVOLVED IN GROUP: Are there religious groups you could be involved in? Have you ever been invited? Why haven't you chosen to get involved?
- * Have you been to a religious summer camp, youth retreat, mission trip, service project or conference in the past couple of years?
 - Tell me about that experience. Did that affect your life in any way? How?
- * IF NOT RELIGIOUS AT ALL AND NEVER ATTENDS: In the past 2 years has anyone invited you to attend religious services or a religious group? Did you go? Why or why not? How was it?

* Do you have strong reasons for not being religious or religiously involved, or has the opportunity just never really presented itself?

- IF STRONG REASONS: What are they?

* EVERYONE: In terms of your views and beliefs about religion, how different or similar do you feel from other people your age? Why?

* Tell me about the religious lives of your friends. Is this something you know much about?

- Do your friends have the same religious beliefs and practices as you?
- Do you go to the same religious services or youth/college age groups?
- Do you discuss religious things?
- How much do you think religion influences their lives?
- Do you see any differences between your religious and non-religious peers?
- Have any of your friends changed religiously over the past couple of years? In what ways? How has that affected your friendship?

* Besides your friends, how many others in your community/school are same religion as you? Do you feel like a minority, or not? IF YES, What makes you feel this way? How does it make you feel about your religion?

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES

* Have you personally had any significant “religious experiences” in the last couple of years? (things that stand out to you, have special meaning to you, mark important moments in your religious/spiritual life)

- IF YES: What kind? What was it like? How did you feel about it?
- Did that religious experience(s) change you in any way? How?

* Have you experienced anything that seemed supernatural in the last couple of years?

- A miracle? An experience of angels or demons?
- IF YES: What was it like? What happened? How did you feel about that experience? Did it change you religiously/spiritually?

INDIVIDUALIZATION/DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION

* In the past couple of years, has how often and where you attend religious services been *totally* up to you?

- IF NOT: Who decides what? How do you feel about it?
- What would you rather do? Where would you attend? Why? How often?

* Do you think there is a difference between being “religious” and being “spiritual?” What is it?

* In the past couple of years, have you tried or begun to include in your own spirituality any practices from any other religions? Which ones? What? Why do you do that? What does it mean to you?

* Some people say that only one religion is true, others think many religions may be true, and still others say that there is very little truth in any religion. How do you tend to think about it? Why? What has shaped your thinking on this?

* In the past two years, have you yourself ever looked into practicing or becoming a different religion? IF YES: What other religions did you look into?

- What made you look into it?
- What was the result of your search?

INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION [IF ATTENDS] [PROBE ON MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS IF NECESSARY—HOME & COLLEGE ESPECIALLY]

* How have your feelings about your [church] changed in the last couple of years? In what ways? Why?

- Have you become more or less interested in what happens at [church]? How so?
- Have you become more or less comfortable at [church]? In what ways?

* In the past couple of years, how has your relationship to leaders at your [church] gone? Who are you referring to? How have you gotten along? What has changed, if anything?

* In the past couple of years, what has been your experience with other adults (not the leaders) at your [church]?

* What have you liked the most about your [church] in the past couple of years?

* What would you like to see changed at your [church]?

* IF MOVED FOR COLLEGE: Have people from your home [church] stayed in touch with you while you're away at college? In what ways? How has that affected you?

SCHOOL

* Where are you at in terms of school? What level are you at? Are you finished with school?

* IF FINISHED WITH SCHOOL ALTOGETHER: What is the highest level of school you completed?

- Why did you decide to end there?
- Do you see ever going back for more education some day? For what kind of degree? When?

* IF HOME SCHOOLED: How has home-schooling been going for you? Are you happy with it? What are the good and bad parts of being home-schooled?

- IF LEFT SCHOOL TO DO HOMESCHOOLING: Why?

* IF STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL (OR HOME-SCHOOLING—ADJUST

WORDINGS) : How hard do you work on your school work?

- How important is it to you to do really well in school (with your schoolwork)? Why, why not?
- What kind of grades do you get? Are you satisfied with your grades?
- What kind of classes do you take? Regular? AP? College prep?
 - What classes/subjects do you like best/worst?
- How hard do your [parents] push you to do well in school (your school work)?
- Ideally, how far in school would you like to go?
 - What is the highest degree you want?
- What do you think your major or area of study might be? Any guess? Things you are leaning towards?
- Are your [parents] and the people around you supportive of your educational plans? How? Why or why not?

* IF WANTS TO GO TO COLLEGE: Do you have any sense of where you want to go?

- What kind of school you want to go to? For what reasons?
- What kinds of things are you doing to prepare for college and getting in? (PROBE ABOUT TAKING TESTS, RESEARCHING SCHOOLS, ETC...)
 - Do you think about it all that much? IF SO, what crosses your mind?

* (SKIP IF HOMESCHOOLED) In the past couple of years, how have you felt about your school and the people there?

- Do you enjoy it or not? What is good/bad about it? What would you change?
- How involved have you been in school activities other than classes? What kinds?

* IF GRADUATED BUT NOT GOING TO COLLEGE NOW: What are your plans now that school is finished?

* IF IN COLLEGE: What school do you attend? Where is it?

- What kind of school is it? 2/4-yr, private/public, religious?
- How did you decide on this school? What were the others you were considering?
- Did you consider schools not like yours (religious/non-religious, private/public) at all? Why didn't you go to one of those?
 - How much did cost factor in the decision?
 - How much did distance from your family factor in?
- How do you like being in college? What's good/bad, hard/easy?
- What is your major? minor? IF UNDECIDED: Are you leaning towards anything? Have any ideas?
- In the past couple of years, how have you felt about your school and the people there?
 - Do you enjoy it or not? What is good/bad about it? What would you change?
- How involved have you been in school activities other than classes? What kinds?
- IF RELIGIOUS: What has it been like to be [R's religion] at college?

* IF IN SCHOOL OR COLLEGE: IF RELIGIOUS: Have you ever told other people at school about your faith, or encouraged them to join your [religion/religious faith], or come to [church] with you?

- IF YES: What was your experience doing that?
- Do you think that school has a positive or negative effect on your [religious faith / beliefs about religion], or neither? In what ways?

VOLUNTEERING

* Have you done any volunteer work in the past couple of years? Why?

* IF YES: More or less than in the years before that? What led to the increase/decrease?

* Is any of the volunteer work you do required? IF YES: How much of it? By whom?

* Do you think the volunteer work you do has an impact on your life? IF YES, In what ways?

ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES AND WORK

* What kinds of groups, clubs, sports teams have you been active in during the past couple of years?

- Have you been getting more or less active in these things?
- How has that affected your life?
- How many, if any, of these things are organized by a religious group?

* Do you work a paid job? What do you do?

- Do you see this job as one you'll have for awhile or what are your plans work-wise?
- Overall, are you happy with your job, or not?
 - What do you like about your job and the place you work?
 - What do you wish you could change about your job and the place you work?
- How many hours per week are you working?
- Do you like the people you work with? What are they like? Do you have friends there?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Does religion impact your work life at all?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Do you ever share your religion/faith with people at work?
- IF RELIGIOUS: Does your work life impact how religious or religiously active you are?

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

* Over the past couple of years, what has been going on in your life in terms of dating or romantic relationships?

- Have you had any relationships?
- IF YES: How many?
 - Do you tend to have more long-term serious relationships or more short-term relationships?

- * Do you think people your age should be getting into serious relationships? Should they be thinking towards the future about marriage, commitment, etc..? Why or why not?
- * Do you do anything actively to try to search potential [girlfriends/boyfriends] out?
 - Dating services, online or other?
 - Hang out any particular places? What are good places?
- * Are you always kind of looking for potential [girlfriends/boyfriends] or romantic encounters, or not?
- * IF HAS BEEN INVOLVED: How have your relationship/s gone over the past couple of years? Have they been a positive or negative part of life, or both? How so?
 - Have you had any bad break-ups? What happened? How did things get resolved?
 - What have you learned from your relationships and dating experiences in the past couple of years? Anything you would do differently?
- * Have the people you've been in relationships with been similar to you religiously? In what ways? Is/was that a particularly good or bad thing for the relationship?
- * Do you think people with different views on religion can have a good relationship? Why or why not?
- * Do you yourself pay attention to potential partners' religious beliefs/participation? Why or why not?
- * IF MARRIED → EXPLORE WHEN, WHY, HOW IT CHANGED LIFE, SPOUSE RELIGIOUS CHARACTERISTICS
- * IF NO ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS → Have you not had any relationships because you don't feel ready or because there just hasn't been the opportunity yet? In what ways?

SEX

- * Last time [we talked/you talked with the other interviewer] there was a set of questions about physical intimacy and sexual activity—like what kinds of behaviors are right or wrong, safe or unsafe, wise or unwise for people your age. I want to get an update now on how you are thinking about these kinds of things.
- * What are your thoughts about people your age and physical involvements and sex?
 - Do society/parents/other adults overreact when it comes to these issues or are they not concerned enough?
 - Do you think people should wait until they are married to have sex? Why/Why not?
 - IF NOT NECESSARY TO WAIT: What do you think is required for a person to be ready for having sex?
 - To be “emotionally ready”? What does that mean?

- Does a person need to be in a relationship with someone to have sex with them? For how long?
 - IF YES, MUST WAIT UNTIL MARRIAGE: Some people say that unmarried people that are “emotionally ready” can have sex. Why do you think that is not enough (or is it sufficient)?
 - What kinds of physical/sexual activities are OK and what kinds should be avoided altogether?
 - In your mind are there different kinds of sex, or different stages of physical intimacy? What are they?
 - When you talk about “sex” are you referring to different kinds of sex, like oral sex and other things, or just sexual intercourse? What qualifies as “sex”?
 - Do kinds of relationships or stages in a relationship change the rules on what is appropriate or not?
- * What do you think about homosexuality?
- What do you think about people who are attracted to people of the same gender/sex?
 - Do you think people having same-sex relationships is OK?
- * Where do you think your ideas or attitudes about sexual matters come from?
- Do your religious beliefs affect your attitudes toward sex or behaviors? How so?
 - Does your religion teach anything about sex?
 - What exactly does it teach?
 - Do you agree with your religion’s teachings about sex?
 - Is there anything else your religious beliefs have to say about sexuality?
- * How has your thinking about physical involvements and sex changed over the past couple of years?
- How? In what ways?
 - Why do you think you’ve changed in how you think about [-----]?
- * Have you yourself been physically involved with anyone else, anything from kissing to having sex in the past couple of years?
- IF YES: What kinds of physical involvements have you had?
 - What kinds of activities? How far would you say you’ve gone?
 - Do you just do these things with someone you’re in a relationship with, or do you mostly just hook up with people, or some of each? More of one than the other?
- * IF NOT ALREADY ANSWERED: Have you had sex?
- IF NO: Have you decided to wait until you are married, or a later age, or have you just not had the opportunity yet?
 - IF WAITING UNTIL MARRIED: Have you made an actual pledge to abstain from sex until marriage? IF YES: What were your reasons for doing this?
 - Did you come up with the idea on your own, or is it through a school or church

- group that you decided to do this?
 - How hard is it to keep your pledge? How hard will it be in the next couple of years?
- IF HAD FIRST SEX BETWEEN INTERVIEWS: How old were you when you had sex for the first time?
 - Did you feel like you had really thought your decision to have sex through, or did it just sort of happen?
 - Did/do you know the person well? Were/are you in a relationship?
 - Looking back, are you happy it happened when and how it did or not? Why or why not?
- IF SEXUALLY ACTIVE: How sexually active have you been over the past couple of years?
 - Do you have sex fairly often or not?
 - How many people have you ever had sex with? (An estimate is fine)
 - Were you in relationships with all these people when having sex with them?
 - IF NOT: Where did you meet them? How did you end up having sex?
 - Do your [parents] know you[’ve had/ are having] sex?
 - How (do/would) they feel about it?
 - Would you say that you are OK with your sex life, or is it a source of worry, guilt, or unhappiness? In what ways?

* Now I want to ask you a few questions about your thoughts on birth control or protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

- How do you feel about people using birth control or contraceptives? Should they, shouldn’t they? Why or why not?
- Do you feel like you know much about birth control or contraceptives?
 - Where have you learned what you know?
 - Do you wish you knew more or not? IF YES: About what? From where?

* IF THE RESPONDENT HAS HAD SEX (IF HAS NOT HAD SEX, SKIP TO NEXT SECTION) :

* Do you yourself use birth control or contraceptives?

- IF YES: What kind or kinds? (Condoms, pills, depo, patch, ring, norplant, withdrawal, etc?) Why? When did you start and what made you start?
- Do you typically use protection or birth control every time you have sex?
 - IF NO: What keeps you from using protection or birth control?
 - Where do you get the birth control/contraceptives you use?
- Do you ever feel pressure or anxiety about trying to obtain birth control? How so?

* How much do you worry about getting (someone) pregnant?

- * Have you ever gotten (someone) pregnant or had any scares?
 - IF YES: Can you tell me a little about the circumstances and what happened?
 - When did this happen? How did you feel?
 - How did the pregnancy end? Miscarriage, abortion, birth?
 - IF NO: What would happen if you did? What would you do?

- * How much do you worry about getting a sexually transmitted infection or disease?
 - Have you had any experiences with this?
 - Can you tell me a little about the circumstances and what happened?

- * Previously, had you ever taken a pledge to abstain from sex until marriage?
 - How do you feel about that now?
 - Do you have any regrets? Do you feel guilty for breaking the pledge?

- * Are there any things you wish you would have known earlier about sex?
 - Are there any things you would have done differently if you had known more, earlier?
 - What? Why?

- * Do you have any particular regrets about your sexual history? Do you mind telling me what and why?

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND PLANS

- * Over the last two years how much have you been thinking about and preparing for your future?
 - In what ways? What do you think about? Are you more hopeful or worried?
 - How do you expect your life will turn out?

- * How much control do you feel like you have over your future? In what ways? Explain.

- * IF NEVER COHABITED OR MARRIED: In the future, would you ever consider living with a girlfriend/boyfriend that you were not married to, or not? Why or why not? [IF INCONSISTENT WITH VIEWS ON PREMARITAL SEX THEN PROBE THIS FURTHER]

- * IF NOT MARRIED: Do you want to get married someday?
 - What makes you [want/not want] to get married?
 - IF YES: At what age do you think it would be good to get married?
 - Why that age in particular?
 - Are there certain things a person should have accomplished before they are ready to marry? What kind of things? Why are they necessary?
 - What do your parents think about when/whether or not/who you should marry?
 - Do they pressure you much to think about it or to avoid it (for now)?

- * How many children, if any, do you want to have? Why that number?
- * Do you think it's bad for young children when their mothers work?
 - IF UNSURE: In what ways do you think it might be good and in what ways do you think it might be bad?
 - IF YES OR NO: In what ways?
- * IF PLANS TO HAVE CHILDREN: Do you expect that [you-IF FEMALE; your wife/mother of your children-IF MALE] will work while having young children? Why or why not?
- * IF WANTS CHILDREN: What do you imagine (IF MALE: your; IF FEMALE: your husband's or the father of your children's) role around the house will be when you have children?
 - Do you expect [you/he] will help much with childcare (stay home from work at all)?
 - Do you expect [you/he] well help much with housework? Equally?
- * What kind of career are you hoping to have? What kind of career goals do you have?
 - IF UNSURE: I know it's a ways off, but what kinds of things do you think about as things you would enjoy doing? Even if you think of lots of different things, but are unsure.
 - What got you interested in that?
 - Do you know much about what it takes to become a [---]? What kind of steps (education, training, etc.) are involved?
 - How much do you think about what your career plans/goals are?
- * What do you think you will be like religiously when you are 25 years old?
 - Will you attend [church]?
 - How similar or different do you think you will be then, compared to now?
 - How so? Why?

CONCLUSION

- * That's it for my questions. Is there anything we have not yet talked about that you think is important for understanding your life or young people in general? Is there anything else you would like to say?
- * Thank you so much for talking with me today. I really enjoyed hearing about your experiences and opinions. Please be assured that everything we talked about today will remain totally confidential. Do you have any other questions?

****PAY INCENTIVE AND GET SIGNATURE ON RECEIPT****

Notes:

[church] = church, synagogue, temple, mosque, etc. as appropriate

[parent] = mother, father, step-mother, etc. as appropriate

[minister/pastor] = minister, pastor, priest, father, rabbi, imam, etc. as appropriate

[bible] = Bible, Torah, Koran, sacred scriptures, etc. as appropriate

[girlfriend/boyfriend] = READ BOTH OR ONE BASED ON THE INFO R HAS SHARED

Probe key:

* Must read very close to verbatim

- Optional, but preferred probes
 - More optional probes

INTERVIEW WORKSHEET–Info from 2003 transcript

Respondent name: _____ Respondent age: _____

Resident family members:

Non-resident family members:

Mother-child relationship quality:

Father-child relationship quality:

Religious/Spiritual history and profile:

Religious or spiritual?

Attends?

Where?

Other affiliation/identity?

Importance?

Practices?

Beliefs? (God, Jesus, Bible, Heaven, Supernatural)

Closeness to God?

Volunteer work:

Organized activities:

Drug, alcohol, tobacco use:

Dating experiences:

Physical intimacy experiences: