

Conversion in Adolescents

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Dimension of Conversion:

Hunger in Junior High for...

If Converted, Seniors Hunger for...

Physical

An idealized body

Acceptance of the body they have

Relational

Popularity, especially with in-groups

A broader range of relationships; desire a diversity of friends

Intellectual

Reliable answers; need to be "right" in the eyes of others

Intellectual freedom and the pursuit of truth

Moral

Clear guidelines on what is right and wrong

Moral freedom and personal responsibility

Religious

The security of religious meaning, symbol systems and ritual

Deeper personal faith & religious experiences

Search in Junior High for...

If Converted, Seniors Search for...

Physical

A naive perfection of body

A healthy lifestyle

Relational

Popularity, at times with risky behavior

Deeper and life-giving relationships

Intellectual

Answers that satisfy and impress others

Answers that satisfy self; can enjoy the search

Moral

Moral certainty

Moral integrity and guidance

Religious

Sense of belonging with peers in faith community

Personal spiritual and theological understanding; communal support for same

**Awaken in
Junior High to...**

**If Converted, Seniors
Awaken to...**

<i>Physical</i>	The fact that their body is what it is, and a given	The realization that their body is good and sacred
<i>Relational</i>	The importance of healthy relationships	Both the demands and rewards of intimate relationships
<i>Intellectual</i>	The reality that some questions lack adequate answers	The need to embrace Mystery at the center of life; truth as multifaceted
<i>Moral</i>	The recognition that they are capable of doing evil; judgmental of others	The recognition that they are capable of and called to moral heroism and forgiveness of others
<i>Religious</i>	The fact that God and institutional religion are not the same	The conviction that God is real and in relationship with them; church as community of sinners

**Respond in
Junior High by...**

**If Converted, Seniors
Respond by...**

<i>Physical</i>	Growing in respect for the wonder of their body	Accepting their body and committing to its care
<i>Relational</i>	Showing an increasing capacity for compassion	Engaging in relationships with empathy and healthy intimacy
<i>Intellectual</i>	Seeking deeper knowledge of self, others, and God	Attracted to a life of intellectual integrity
<i>Moral</i>	Recognizing personal moral responsibility and identifying faults in others	Accepting self and others as sinful; choosing freely to live by core values & principles
<i>Religious</i>	Exploring what it means to have a personal relationship with God	Seeking ways to grow in faith and religious practice