



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited to share with you an opportunity for your youth to participate in an innovative research project called "Where do Youth Meet God? Photovoice Project."

Project Overview: This research initiative aims to explore how young people aged 14-18 perceive and experience their connection with God. Through the powerful method of Photovoice, participants will be invited to capture and submit a photograph in response to the question, "Where do you meet God?" This project acknowledges that teenagers often find spiritual meaning outside traditional religious institutions, in settings such as nature, homes, pets, and friendships. It seeks to amplify the voices of young individuals in expressing their unique experiences of spirituality.

Methodology: Participants will include teenagers associated with CBAC churches. The campaign will be promoted through local church youth pastors and leaders and camp directors. Students will be invited to submit their photos through an online portal. Photovoice is strengthened by engaging in reflective dialogue with the studied population. Selected students will have the opportunity to participate in focus groups, providing a platform for discussing the submitted photos and sharing observations. Insights gathered will be crafted into themes for presentation to local churches and related organizations.

Participant Information: To participate, students will need to submit their names or contact information along with their photos. Additionally, basic demographic information such as age, gender, province, and locale (rural, suburban, or urban) will be collected. Further engagement in reflection groups will require additional parental consent.

Benefits of Participation: Participation offers several benefits for your child:

1. **Expression of Personal Beliefs:** Your child can express and share their personal beliefs and experiences related to spirituality in a creative and visual manner.
2. **Enhanced Self-Reflection:** Through selecting and capturing a photograph representing their connection with spirituality, your child can engage in a process of self-reflection, deepening their understanding of their beliefs and values.
3. **Skill Development:** Involvement in the project can enhance various skills, including photography skills and effective communication skills through participation in focus groups.
4. **Opportunity to Win a Prize:** For every student that participates, your child's CBAC affiliated youth group or camp will be entered into a draw for a \$100 gift card from CBAC Youth & Family.



Risks of Participation: I want to ensure you are well-informed about potential risks, including confidentiality concerns, privacy issues, and the impact on relationships and community judgment. Our team has taken steps to mitigate these risks, including confidentiality agreements signed by project staff and protocols for data handling.

Withdrawal from the Study: Your child's participation is entirely voluntary, and they have the right to withdraw at any time without facing any negative consequences. To withdraw, they can simply email me at dan.pyke@baptist-atlantic.ca, indicating their desire to withdraw.

Next Steps:

1. Please review the attached Informed Consent document with your child.
2. Encourage them to reflect on the question "Where do you meet God?" and consider how a photo may capture their answer.
3. Support them in taking and submitting their photo through the project's website.
4. Consider if your child will participate in a follow-up focus group when invited.

Questions? If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 506-635-1922 or dan.pyke@baptist-atlantic.ca.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dan Pyke
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada