



Addiction Prevention & Interventions in Student Ministry



Red Flags

Signs & Symptoms of a Problem

Here are some warning signs, either hidden or visible, that a teen might be battling an addiction:

- Do they start turning up late for services or virtual check-in's?
- Do they have trouble following through on commitments?
- Are they having more problems with family, peers, or work?
- Do they appear to be withdrawing from intimate contacts?
- Do they have unexplained absences from their usual schedule?
- Do they have a new group of friends?
- Are they always tired or look sleep deprived?
- Do they appear surprisingly secretive?

Physical Changes

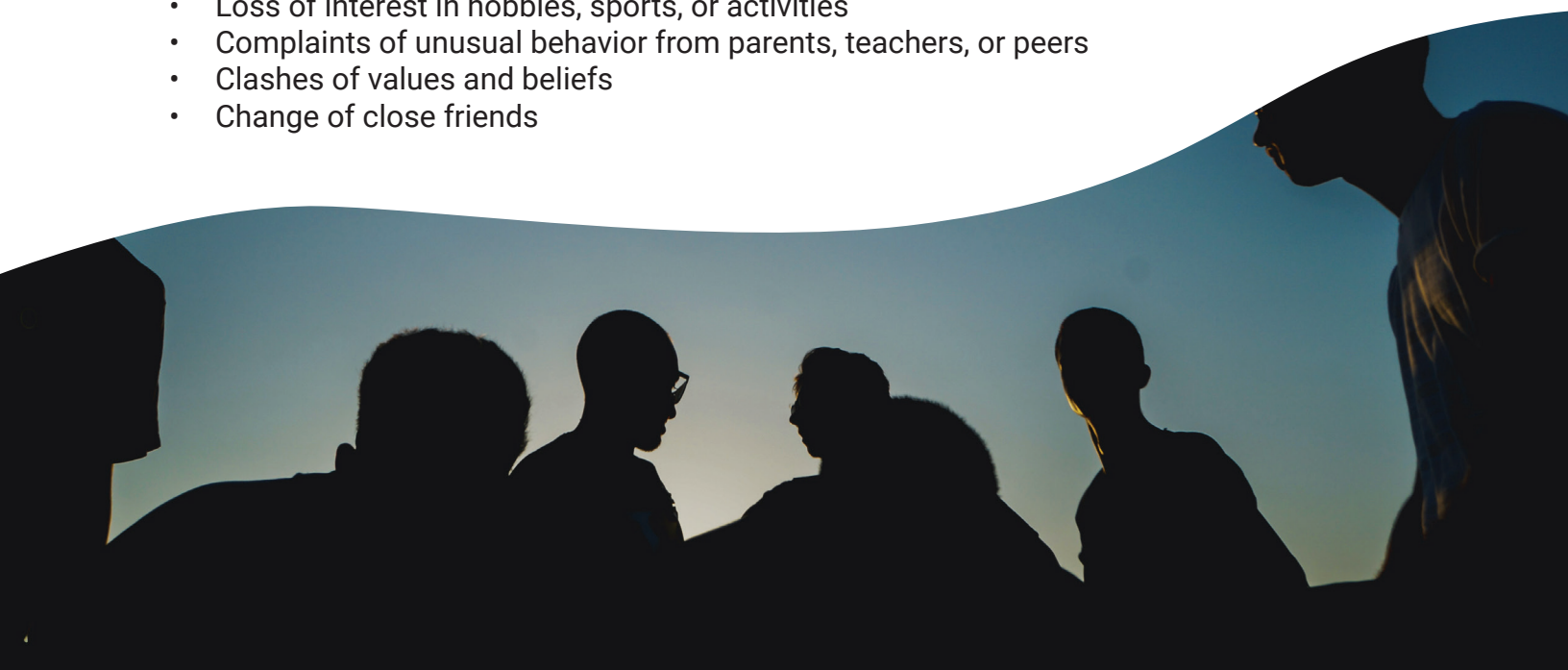
- Pupil size – small or big
- Nosebleeds
- Needle marks on arms, feet, or tongue
- Altered appetite
- Altered sleep patterns
- Injuries or bruises

Emotional Changes

- Extreme Mood Swings
- Irritability
- Angry Outbursts
- Hyperactivity or Agitation
- Lack of motivation
- Inability to focus
- Careless attitude

Social/Behavioral Changes

- Withdrawn
- Lack of interest in family, friends, or group connections
- Social changes like skipping class
- Loss of interest in hobbies, sports, or activities
- Complaints of unusual behavior from parents, teachers, or peers
- Clashes of values and beliefs
- Change of close friends



Partners in Prevention

Working Together to Turn the Tide

Teach students how to have healthy fun!

Do you know how we know that the Lord is starting to open up a student's heart in Teen Challenge? The first time we see them smile or learn to laugh again.

Don't Lose Contact

Find creative ways to connect and build community with your students during this pandemic and beyond!

Build Meaningful Connections

Work to ensure that every meeting, service, or activity with your students builds intentional and meaningful relationships with God, their peers, and mentors.

Teach Healthy Intimacy

Build empathy through sharing stories together and serving those in need, coach them in how to have meaningful and deep conversations with others, and encourage transparency, confession, and mutual accountability.

Have Difficult Conversations

Addiction grows within an environment of silence, secrecy, shame, and stigma. Create an environment where your students know they can come to you for genuine help.

Partner with Parents

Building meaningful connections with the parents of your students can help you identify early signs of addictive behaviors as you work together and compare notes.

Speak the Truth in Love

Don't be afraid to confront students or parents who are showing signs of addiction

Set Healthy Boundaries

Allow students to experience the natural consequences of their actions.



Partnering to Share Resources

Educational Materials for Your Students



Use Coupon Code
FIRST25
To Receive **25% Off** Your First Order

Order Online At
TeenChallengeUSA.org/store

Request a free curriculum sample at TeenChallengeUSA.org/sample