

effectively extend that invitation, we should consider what makes Gen Z unique.

Generally, Gen Z was raised to be independent and self-directed, which equates to relying on yourself and your own resources.

In what way is this the opposite of what Deu 6:4-7?

Gen Z values authenticity – alignment of both words and actions. They may have been raised in Christian homes but no longer identify themselves as Christian.

If there is no visible difference between those in the church and those in the world, why would words alone convince a Gen Z to commit to Jesus? What kind of authentic action by Christians do you think influences Gen Zs? What would you consider prevailing attitudes and actions in “the Church” that are more aligned with “the World” than “the Word”?

WRAP-UP

The next generation (Gen Z) needs to hear the truth of God’s invitation to them as a total commitment to the one and only God, not once, but over and over any time anywhere and any way we can. They are looking to the church for authenticity in our words and actions as we live our lives before them. If we don’t practice what we preach, they won’t accept our invitation, but if they do see us as genuinely different from the world, they will do a new thing for God when they go “all in” for Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up - Deuteronomy 6:7 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life

Challenge-Ask a Gen Z to coffee this week and ask them to tell you about themselves, then just be a good listener so you can understand them better.

“Inviting the Next Generation”

Invited #3

INTRODUCTION

So far in our series we have considered the invitation God extends to us and how we can extend it to our neighbors. But how will we invite the next generation into a relationship with Jesus? What are they seeking and what do they value? Will they hear God’s invitation as Good News or empty words?

Ice Breaker

What ages do you consider to be “the next generation?”

Key Passage

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NLT - 4 "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What Do We Pass to the Next Generation?

When Moses spoke to the first generation of God’s chosen people in the wilderness, he knew that they had a responsibility to extend the invitation of God to those who would come after them, their children.

Deuteronomy 6:4 NLT - 4 "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone

Deuteronomy 5:6-7 NLT - 6 "I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. 7 "You must not have any other god but me.

What foundational truth did Moses begin by emphasizing in Deu 6:4? We also see its importance as the first Commandment given on Mount Sinai. Why is it important for us to recognize this today, and what commonly accepted opinions or attitudes might stand in opposition to this idea?

The exclusiveness of Yahweh demands a unique level of allegiance and loyalty. If we extend His invitation to the next generation, they need to understand what is involved in this “total commitment”.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 NLT - 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Hosea 6:6 NLT - 6 I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

How is that commitment summarized by Moses in Deu 6:5-6? Speaking through the prophet Hosea, the Lord gave us insight into what that means. If we equate loving God with offering sacrifices (doing good works, paying tithes, etc), how does that misrepresent what God is seeking, and how does it impact the next generation’s view of what God is inviting them into?

2. How do we Invite the Next Generation?

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 NLT - 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The total commitment of loving God with all our heart, soul and strength is reflected in the integration of His commandments into our lives. Deu 6:7-9 outlines how we are to share this with our children.

Moses listed many ways we are to extend God’s invitation to our

children. We are to repeat God’s commands over and over. The idea comes from sharpening a blade by repeatedly rubbing it against a stone. We may think of repetition as repeating what the Bible says verbatim, but the word “talk” (dābar) in verse means “to speak, declare, converse, command, promise, warn, threaten, sing”. Depending on the age of your children, some of these may be more effective than others. Discuss with your group what ages or situations some of these methods might be most effective in reaching the next generation. Which have you used with your children?

Moses also says these talks don’t only take place on Sundays or at church, where we tend to expect them. They are for any place (at home or on the road) and any time of day (going to bed or getting up). Peter expressed a similar idea in 1 Peter 3:15.

1 Peter 3:15 NLT - 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

Christ needs to be Lord over our whole life, not just some places and some times. What are some of the areas of your life where you would like to increase God’s presence? Is there something you can do to help this happen?

3. Who is the Next Generation?

Depending on who you ask, the next generation, known as Gen Z, makes up about a quarter of the U.S. population. They were born between the mid to late 1990’s and early to mid 2010’s.

Isaiah 43:18-19 NLT - 18 "But forget all that--it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Don’t expect Gen Z to look like any previous generation, they are a “new thing”. There are some identifying characteristics of Gen Z that influence how they respond to God’s invitation. If we are going to