

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of November 13 - 19, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

One of the ways that we are called to live “beyond” is to live beyond our generation. Often we only think about our own generation and what we need. Yet, God commands us to invest in the next generation's faith.

“Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸and that they should not be like their fathers a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.” (Psalm 78:1-8 ESV)

Failure to invest in the next generation will have consequences. Joshua and his generation did not teach their children about God. As a result, that generation greatly suffered.

“...And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. ¹¹And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹²And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.” (Judges 2:10-15 ESV)

Our responsibility is to reach and disciple the next generation so they can experience God's blessing and invest in the generations after them. We can live beyond our generation by investing in the next with our time (relational discipleship), treasure (finances), and talent (resources, coaching, training, tutoring, care, etc.).

Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss.)

- Share what stands out to you from the weekend sermon, main thought, and/or scriptures above.
- Who are the “next generation” people in your life that God is calling you to reach and disciple? How can you invest in their faith through your time, treasure, and/or talent?
- Share one practical takeaway from today's discussion. What will you do to invest in the next generation?

Prayer:

- Pray for the “next generation” in your life that God will touch them and for opportunities to invest in their faith.
- Pray that the “next generation” in your life will impact their campuses and future generations for the gospel.
- Pray for our “next generation” ministries (Kids Church, Middle School, High School, College & Young Adults) to experience a harvest of young people like never before.