

# Ministry to Generation Z-The Discipleship Challenge

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## I. The Changing Culture of Generation Z

- A. Only 4% of Generation Z teens have a Biblical worldview (Barna Group and Impact 360 Institute 2018, 25).
- B. Generation Z children are between the ages of 5-12 years old.
- C. Christians must teach Generation Z children how to defend the Word of God in order to give them a solid foundation in the secular world.

“You must begin to defend the Word with your pupils at a very young age. You must teach them how to defend themselves and the Word of God in a secular world and show them how the Bible connects to the real world.”

(Hamm, Beemer, and Hillard 2010, 147)

- D. Generation Z children have an eight-second attention span that must be captivated at the beginning of any presentation (Finch 2015).
- E. The culture that surrounds a generation shapes the character traits of that generation, and this is no exception with Generation Z.
- F. Though the culture of Generation Z children is hostile to Christianity, this provides Christians with a greater opportunity to disciple them with the Word of God.

“The roots of faithfulness often sink deeper in anxious, unsettled times. Faith can grow even—and sometimes especially—in the darkest of places.”

(Kinnaman and Matlock 2019, 16)

## II. The Christian’s Responsibility in Discipling Generation Z

- A. Christians must become informed apologists by providing evidence that supports a Biblical worldview.
  - 1. Demonstrate humility to Generation Z children.
  - 2. Maintain strong relationships with Generation Z children.
  - 3. Be diligent in studying to teach Generation Z children.
  - 4. Authentically practice the truth to Generation Z children.

“If we truly love the next generation, we’ll do whatever it takes to make sure they know and embrace the truth....If we care about young people, we’ll sacrifice for them because we love them.” (McDowell and Wallace 2019, 25)

### III. The Challenges of Discipling Generation Z

- A. Generation Z is the first generation to be classified as digital natives.
- B. Google is the life-long “go to” for Generation Z, which provides over three billion results to the question, “Who is God?”
- C. The questions that Generation Z children ask help to form their worldview.

### IV. Helpful Resources to Use in Discipling Generation Z

- A. *The Three R's of Worldview Transformation* by Jonathan Morrow (Barna Group and Impact 360 Institute 2018, 100-101)
  - 1. Reasons – Generation Z kids need to know why they believe what they believe.
  - 2. Relationships – Generation Z kids need healthy, genuine relationships.
  - 3. Rhythms – Generation Z kids need opportunities to practice their faith.
- B. *The Chew-and-Spit Method of Discernment* by Hillary Morgan Ferrer (Ferrar 2019, 50)
  - 1. Chew – Generation Z kids need to interact with their contemporary culture.
  - 2. Spit – Generation Z kids need to swallow what is good and spit out what is bad.
- C. *The ROAR Method* by Hillary Morgan Ferrer (Ferrar 2019, 54)
  - 1. Recognize the message
  - 2. Offer discernment (affirm the good, reject the bad)
  - 3. Argue for a healthier approach
  - 4. Reinforce through discussion, discipleship, and prayer
- D. *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® materials produced by *CEF Press*®
  - 1. Growth Bible lessons
  - 2. Growth Memory verses
  - 3. Growth songs
  - 4. *Wonder Time*™
  - 5. Missions
  - 6. Small group discussions

## V. The Parent's Responsibility in Discipling Generation Z

- A. Moses commanded the Israelites to teach their children God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
- B. Resources such as *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family* by Dr. Kara Powell are available to help parents disciple their children in God's Word.
- C. There is a declining number of parents in the world who teach their children truth from God's Word, but this is a top concern identified by many pastors.
- D. *Child Evangelism Fellowship* is focused on helping parents and Christians evangelize and disciple Generation Z kids.

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