

Next Gen Sunday Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What was one of your favorite ages as a child?
2. What's one piece of advice you learned from a mentor, coach, or parent growing up?

Read the following passage: 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

In this passage Paul alludes to four “generations”: 1) Paul; 2) Timothy; 3) Reliable (or faithful) people; 4) Others. Paul understood the urgency of transferring the gospel to a new generation of believers. Every follower of Christ can play a role in this great mission.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. A large percentage of businesses die when the founder dies. Great wealth is often lost by the third generation. Many organizations sputter after the loss of a visionary leader. How can we apply the instructions Paul gave to Timothy to prevent this from happening in the church?
2. What were some of the most significant ways you were shaped before you turned 21?
3. Unhealed pain in our lives often impacts the people around us. What do you think it's like to be in close relationship with you? What are some healthy ways you impact other people, and what are some unhealthy ways you might impact other people?
4. Many people heard Jesus's great teaching, but not everyone benefited equally from what they heard. The difference was the way people *responded* to Jesus's teaching. What are some ways you think God wants you to respond to the things you've been reading in the Scriptures or hearing from others? Are there any specific steps God wants you to take in your life right now?
5. We have a tendency to overemphasize the importance of having great answers to the questions others are asking or being able to solve other people's problems. Describe why our presence (not our wisdom or intellect) often makes the biggest difference in the long run.
6. As was the case with the woman at the well (see her story in John 4), transformation often begins with uncomfortable conversations. Are there any uncomfortable conversations you think God may want you to have with others?

What can we do to help these conversations be effective?

7. Who are two or three people you can have a positive spiritual impact on right now in your life?

Pray