

WHAT FRUSTRATES EVANGELICAL GEN Zs

EPISODE 2: NOT WALKING THE TALK

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.



PRAYER - Begin with prayer, asking God to give you humility, compassion, and wisdom as you seek to build stronger relationships with the next generation.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

- What did you notice about the amount of time and emotional energy you gave to politics compared with your relationship with Jesus?
- Did you notice any difference between the way you talked about political issues and the way Jesus might approach them?
- What change did you identify that could help put politics in its proper place?
- How might that change make your identity in Christ more visible to the next generation?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven't already, watch this week's video: “*Not Walking the Talk*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.



WATCH: Episode 2: Not Walking the Talk

Episode Summary

NextGens are looking for more than Christians who can explain what they believe—they want to see whether those beliefs produce authentic relationships and transformed lives. Jesus did not treat people as evangelistic projects. He genuinely knew them, listened to them, loved them, and shared truth within the context of relationships.

In the same way, our children and grandchildren are watching whether the faith we profess actually shapes our priorities, choices, and character. If we want our words about Jesus to carry weight, we must build genuine relationships and walk the talk.

Faith is caught more than it's taught.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series explores some of the frustrations evangelical Gen Zs have expressed about older Christians and the church. Each episode invites us to listen seriously to their concerns, examine ourselves honestly, and look to Jesus for a better way forward. The goal is not to change biblical truth to accommodate the next generation, but to remove unnecessary barriers that can keep them from seeing and experiencing an authentic faith in Christ.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do you think a genuine relationship needs to come before apologetics for many younger people?
2. Jesus spent time with people, asked questions, listened, and continued loving them even when they rejected His message. What does His example teach us about sharing our faith?
3. Peter tells Christians to be prepared to give an answer to those who ask about our hope. What might someone need to see in our lives before they become curious enough to ask?
4. Where are Christians most tempted to say they trust Jesus while actually finding their identity or security somewhere else?
5. If faith is “caught more than it's taught,” what are the younger generations in your life currently catching from you?

Episode Notes

2. When Apologetics Outweigh Relationships

- Relationships should come before arguments.

- Be ready to answer when people ask.

- Jesus listened, asked questions, and built relationships.

- Love people even when they reject the message.

- Know not only **how** to share, but **when**.



Episode Notes

3. When Christians Don't Live What They Believe

- Our lives should match what we say we believe.

- Look to Jesus—not politics, money, or status—for security.

- The difference Jesus makes should be visible.

- Don't rationalize behavior that contradicts our faith.

- **Faith is caught more than it is taught.**



WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Walking the talk begins with what we actually seek first. Our lives demonstrate whether Christ and His Kingdom are truly the source of our identity and security.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15 - “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” Our lives should demonstrate a hope that makes others curious, and when they ask, we should be ready to explain that hope with gentleness and respect.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this week’s lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Luke 15:1-2
1 John 2:6

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Ask someone who knows you well—ideally an adult child, grandchild, or younger believer—one simple question:
“Do you see anything in my life that doesn’t match what I say I believe?”

Listen to their answer without explaining, defending, or correcting their perspective. Thank them for being honest, and take what they say to God in prayer.

Then identify **one specific area** where your faith needs to become more visible in the way you actually live. Commit to one concrete change this week—not to impress the next generation, but because following Jesus should make a discernible difference in your life.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach next-gen loved ones?



SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and what participants are learning about themselves. Close in prayer, asking God to make your relationships genuine, your witness gracious, and your daily life increasingly consistent with the faith you profess.

