

HOW BOOMERS MESS UP WITH GEN Z

EPISODE 3: WINNING THE ARGUMENT, NOT THE PERSON

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, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

- Who did you intentionally encourage or “cheer on” this week?
- What did you affirm in them, and how did they respond?
- When were you tempted to criticize or correct? How did you handle it?
- What did you learn about communicating truth with the compassion of Jesus?

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: “*Winning the Argument, Not the Person*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 3: Winning the Argument, Not the Person**

Episode Summary

Sharing our faith is not about making a sales pitch, forcing a decision, or winning an argument. Jesus spoke truth clearly, but He also allowed people the freedom to walk away while continuing to love them. Our responsibility is to faithfully share what we believe and trust the Holy Spirit with the outcome. When younger generations know that our love is unconditional and the relationship matters more than winning a debate, we create space for honest dialogue and future opportunities to point them toward Jesus.

Too often, we want to win the argument rather than the relationship.

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 three common mistakes older generations make when trying to connect with NextGens. Each episode offers practical, biblical wisdom for understanding younger generations, communicating more effectively, and building relationships that open the door to lasting spiritual influence. The goal is not to abandon truth or conviction, but to learn how to share them in ways that build bridges rather than walls.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where have you seen a “close the deal” mentality influence the way Christians share their faith or convictions?
2. Jesus allowed the rich young ruler to walk away. What does His response teach us about trusting God rather than forcing an outcome?
3. Why can the desire to prove that we are right become an obstacle to reaching someone we love?
4. What does it look like to make someone feel safe and unconditionally loved while still being honest about beliefs or choices you disagree with?
5. How might trusting the Holy Spirit to change hearts affect the way you approach difficult conversations with NextGen loved ones?

Episode Notes

1. Make evangelism relational, not transactional.

- NextGens respond to authenticity and dialogue rather than pressure or sales pitches.
 - Trying to “close the deal” too soon can shut down future opportunities for conversation.
 - We don’t have to sell our faith or pressure others into accepting our viewpoint.
-
-

2. Trust God with the outcome.

- Our job is to faithfully share what we believe; it is the Holy Spirit’s job to change hearts.
 - Jesus was willing to let people walk away rather than pressure them into following Him.
 - Trusting God frees us from trying to force decisions in our own strength.
-
-

3. Win the relationship, not the argument.

- Scoring debate points for the sake of winning can damage the relationships we hope to influence.
 - NextGens need to know that our love is unconditional and unbreakable.
 - Dialogue builds bridges; arguing builds walls.
-
-



WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY 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.” We are called to be ready to explain what we believe, but Scripture also tells us how: with gentleness and respect rather than pressure or argument.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:21 - “Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’” Jesus spoke difficult truth to the rich young ruler from a posture of genuine love. Notice that He led the conversation with heart-probing questions. Even when the man ultimately walked away, Jesus did not manipulate or pressure him into changing his decision.



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

1 Corinthians 3:6–7
Romans 12:18

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Think of one NextGen loved one with whom conversations about faith, values, or culture have become argumentative or strained. Ask yourself whether you have been more focused on changing their mind than in strengthening your relationship with them and pointing them to Christ.

This week, take one intentional step toward building that relationship without trying to “close the deal.” Listen, spend time together, or simply remind them that you love them unconditionally. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their heart—and in yours—and trust God with the outcome.

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 NextGen loved ones?



SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and experiences from throughout the series. Close in prayer, asking God to help you listen well, speak with compassion, love without conditions, and trust the Holy Spirit to accomplish what only He can do.

