

WHAT FRUSTRATES EVANGELICAL GEN Zs

EPISODE 3: JUDGMENTAL AND LAZY THINKERS



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 for humility to examine your own attitudes, wisdom to engage difficult questions, and grace to reflect Jesus to the next generation.

Follow Up on Last Episode’s Assignment

- Did you ask someone whether they see anything in your life that doesn’t match what you say you believe?
- What did you hear, and what was difficult or helpful about receiving their answer?
- What specific area did you identify where your faith needs to become more visible?
- What step did you take toward greater consistency between what you believe and how you live?

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: “*Judgmental and Lazy Thinkers*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 3: Judgmental and Lazy Thinkers**

Episode Summary

NextGens wants to see a Christianity marked by both love and thoughtful conviction. Following Jesus will sometimes put us in conflict with the surrounding culture, but we should never create unnecessary barriers through arrogance, judgment, or careless words.

At the same time, younger generations are wrestling with difficult questions that deserve more than shallow answers. Jesus calls us to examine ourselves first, and His example challenges us to think deeply. By combining humility and grace with serious biblical thinking, we can become the kind of sages who build gospel bridges and help the next generation stand strong.

Life is full of tough questions... we need answers that are biblical, thoughtful, and nuanced.

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. How can we distinguish between opposition that comes from faithfully following Jesus and criticism caused by our own harshness, arrogance, or judgmental attitudes?
2. Jesus tells us to take the log out of our own eye before addressing the speck in someone else’s. How might that change the way we respond to people or cultural issues we strongly disagree with?
3. Why do you think it matters to NextGens that churches provide a safe place for difficult questions, doubts, and skepticism?
4. What is one question or cultural issue facing younger generations that you do not currently feel equipped to discuss thoughtfully?
5. What would it look like for you to become a sage—someone who combines biblical wisdom, cultural understanding, humility, and love in the lives of younger people?

Episode Notes

4. When Christians Are More Known for Judgment Than Love

- Biblical truth will sometimes conflict with culture.

- Don't confuse righteousness with being judgmental.

- **How and when** we speak matters.

- Examine the log in our own eye first.

- Challenge ourselves before judging the world.



Episode Notes

5. When Christians Aren't Serious Thinkers

- NextGens are asking difficult questions.

- Easy answers and platitudes aren't enough.

- Make room for doubts, questions, and skepticism.

- Jesus and Paul modeled thoughtful engagement.

- Do the homework—understand Scripture and culture.

- Become a sage with something worth passing on.



WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:3–5 - “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” Jesus does not tell us to ignore truth or wrongdoing. He tells us to begin with honest self-examination so that we can see clearly and respond to others with humility rather than self-righteous judgment.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:15 - “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” Helping the next generation navigate difficult questions requires more than easy answers. We must do the work of knowing Scripture well and learning to handle truth carefully.



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

Matthew 10:16
Acts 17:16–34

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

For one week, **audit your words before you audit the world**. Pay attention to the way you speak about people whose beliefs, politics, lifestyles, or choices you strongly disagree with. When you catch yourself becoming critical or judgmental, ask: **Am I speaking with the wisdom, humility, and love of Jesus?**

Then choose **one difficult question or cultural issue facing the next generation that you do not feel equipped to answer well**. Instead of settling for an easy response, do the homework. Study what Scripture says and try to understand why the issue matters to younger people.

Explore the topics and studies available through **Legacy Imperative’s resource library** and find one that can help you dig deeper. Write down what you learn and one question you still need to explore. Consider this the beginning of becoming the kind of **sage** who has something of lasting value to offer the next generation.

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, difficult questions participants want to explore, and areas where further growth is needed. Close in prayer, asking God to replace judgment with love, shallow answers with biblical wisdom, and complacency with a willingness to learn. Ask Him to make you a faithful sage who builds gospel bridges to the next generation.

