

HOW BOOMERS MESS UP WITH GEN Z

EPISODE 2: CONVICTIONS WITHOUT COMPASSION



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 take time to listen to this week?
- What did you learn about them that you might have missed if you had done most of the talking?
- How difficult was it to resist giving advice, correcting, or sharing your own opinion?
- Did asking questions change the tone or direction of the conversation? How?

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: “*Convictions Without Compassion*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 2: Convictions Without Compassion**

Episode Summary

Biblical convictions matter, but so does the way we communicate them. NextGens have grown up in a very different cultural environment, where feelings, compassion, and social justice often shape how truth is understood. Jesus never compromised truth, but He approached hurting and broken people with compassion rather than condemnation. If we want the next generation to hear what we believe, they also need to see the love of Christ in how we speak and how we treat them.

It's not always what you say, but how you say it.

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 noticed the difference between an “I think” and an “I feel” approach in conversations with younger generations?
2. Why do you think compassion and social justice resonate so strongly with NextGens? How might those concerns create opportunities to communicate biblical truth?
3. Jesus was gentle with people who had been beaten down by critics. What can we learn from His example without compromising truth?
4. When have you been more of a critic than a cheerleader toward a younger person? How might your words or attitude have affected the relationship?
5. What would it look like to challenge an idea or behavior you believe is wrong while still communicating genuine compassion and love?

Episode Notes

1. Understand the world NextGens are navigating.

- Older folks grew up in an age of fixed moral values; NextGens inhabit an age of fluidity.
 - Where older generations tend to say, “I think,” NextGens often says, “I feel.”
 - Understanding those differences can help us communicate biblical truth more effectively.
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2. Be a cheerleader, not a critic.

- Jesus was kind and gentle toward those who had been beaten down by critics.
 - He looked beyond what people had been to what they could become.
 - NextGens need to see that same Jesus in us.
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3. Speak truth with compassion.

- Challenging destructive ideas or behavior does not require a critical spirit.
 - Our words have the power of life and death.
 - It’s not always what we say, but how we say it and with what attitude we say it.
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 3:17 - “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” Jesus came with truth, but His purpose was salvation rather than condemnation. Our conversations with the next generation should reflect that same heart.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 18:21 - “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Our words can either tear down or give life. Even when correction is necessary, the way we speak can determine whether we build a bridge or a wall.



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

John 8:3–11
Ephesians 4:29

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Choose one NextGen loved one in your life and intentionally become their cheerleader this week. Look for something you genuinely appreciate about them—a strength, character quality, accomplishment, or something good you see developing in their life—and tell them.

At the same time, pay attention to your own words and attitudes. When you feel tempted to criticize their generation, their culture, or something you disagree with, ask yourself how you could respond with the compassion of Jesus instead.

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 experiences with younger generations. Close in prayer, asking God to give you the compassion of Jesus, wisdom in communicating biblical truth, and words that give life rather than tear down.

