

HOW BOOMERS MESS UP WITH GEN Z

EPISODE 1: NOT LISTENING OR ASKING QUESTIONS



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.

Since this is the first episode in this series, take time to:

- Share what brought you to this study and what you hope to gain.
- Talk about any situations where you’ve felt unable or unwelcome to share your faith with family members or friends.
- Ask God to give your group wisdom, compassion, and hope as you begin this journey together.

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 Listening or Asking Questions*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 1: Not Listening or Asking Questions**

Episode Summary

Reaching NextGens requires more than having the right answers—it requires learning to listen. Younger generations want to know that we genuinely care about what they think and how they feel, and Jesus modeled this kind of compassionate attention throughout His ministry. By listening before speaking and asking thoughtful questions instead of rushing to lecture or correct, we can create the kind of dialogue that builds trust and opens the door to meaningful spiritual influence.

Asking caring and probing questions will advance dialogue that builds bridges.

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. What communication habits did you learn from your parents or grandparents, and how well do they work with younger generations today?
2. Why can it be difficult to listen when someone says something we strongly disagree with—or says it in a way we find disrespectful?
3. Jesus listened with His eyes as well as His ears. What might it look like to notice the feelings or “heart cries” beneath someone’s words?
4. Why do you think Jesus so often asked questions rather than immediately giving people answers?
5. Think about a younger person you want to influence. How might listening more and asking better questions change your relationship with them?

Episode Notes

1. Old ways don't always work with today's youth.

- Age no longer automatically earns respect; younger generations look for authentic relationships.
 - Old habits of lecturing and expecting unquestioned authority can create distance instead of influence.
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2. Learn to listen like Jesus.

- Good communication is a dialogue, not a monologue.
 - Jesus listened with both His ears and His eyes, looking beneath the surface to understand what people were really feeling.
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3. Questions build bridges.

- Jesus often responded to questions by asking questions of His own.
 - Caring, probing questions keep dialogue going, while quick answers to questions no one is asking can build walls.
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 1:19 - “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” Listening first requires humility and patience, especially when conversations are difficult or emotional.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:36 - “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus looked beyond outward behavior and saw what people were experiencing beneath the surface. Listening well begins with seeing others with the same compassion.



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

Proverbs 10:19
Proverbs 18:13

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Choose one NextGen family member, friend, coworker, or young person in your church and intentionally have a conversation where your primary goal is simply to listen.

Ask genuine questions about something that matters to them. Resist the urge to correct, lecture, offer advice, or immediately share your own opinion. Instead, listen carefully and ask follow-up questions that help you understand what they really think and feel.

Afterward, reflect on what you learned about them that you might have missed if you had done most of the talking.

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 for the humility to listen before speaking, the compassion to see beneath the surface, and the wisdom to ask questions that build bridges rather than walls.



ESSENTIALS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

These principles help create a safe, encouraging environment where everyone can grow and connect:

- **Begin with Prayer** – Invite Jesus into the meeting and ask for His guidance.
- **Create a Welcoming Setup** – Sit in a circle so everyone can see each other.
- **Facilitate, Don't Lecture** – Guide the conversation using thoughtful, Scripture-based questions.
- **Stay on Mission** – Gently redirect if conversation drifts into unrelated topics or personal debates.
- **Model Grace & Openness** – Be transparent about your own journey and set expectations for confidentiality.
- **Build Relationships** – Include social time before or after the session.
- **Follow the Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward Rhythm** – Celebrate progress, offer grace for struggles, and encourage one another as you grow together.



Explore additional resources and upcoming events at LegacyImperative.org. If this series blesses you, please share it—and consider helping us reach more families by clicking the donate button.