BRIDING THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE WITH BOOMER & Z

EPISODE 4: WEARING MASKS – ANOTHER DIVIDE



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 - Ask God to help you look beyond disagreements to better understand the people you love. Pray for wisdom to recognize the experiences and values that shape both your own perspective and theirs.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

- What did you learn from your conversation with someone from another generation?
- What did you come to appreciate about their experiences or perspective?
- What assumptions about another generation were challenged?

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: *"Wearing Masks — Another Divide."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 4: Wearing Masks — Another Divide

Episode Summary

During the COVID-19 pandemic, masks, lockdowns, health, the economy, and personal freedom became sources of sharp disagreement. Boomer and Z discovered that beneath their different responses were values and concerns shaped by very different life experiences. Looking beneath a person's position can help us better understand why they see an issue differently.

That principle extends far beyond the pandemic. Families today may disagree deeply about faith, politics, gender and sexuality, morality, relationships, and culture. Understanding does not require agreement or compromise. We can hold firmly to biblical truth while seeking to understand others, speaking with grace, challenging our assumptions, and protecting relationships through which God may continue to work.

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

Generational differences can become deep divides over faith, politics, gender and sexuality, morality, and other important beliefs. This four-part series models how we can hold firmly to biblical truth while listening well, speaking with grace, and building stronger relationships with those who see the world differently.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How have your upbringing, experiences, and the generation you grew up in shaped the way you see the world?
2. What can we learn by looking for the experiences, fears, or values underneath someone's position rather than focusing only on the disagreement?
3. How can seeking to understand someone's perspective help strengthen a relationship without requiring you to agree with their conclusions?
4. Which divides—such as faith, politics, morality, gender and sexuality, or culture—are especially difficult to navigate in your family or relationships?
5. Looking back over this series, how can you hold firmly to biblical truth while listening well, honoring the person, and protecting relationships with those who believe differently?

Every one of us needs to challenge our assumptions.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15–16 - "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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."
Following Christ calls us to know what we believe and be prepared to speak about it, but also to consider how we communicate. Biblical conviction should be expressed with gentleness and respect, even when disagreements run deep.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:31 - "Do to others as you would have them do to you." We all want to be heard, understood, and treated fairly when others disagree with us. Jesus calls us to extend that same consideration to others, including those whose beliefs or choices may be very different from our own.

look forward

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

Romans 14:1
Galatians 6:2
1 Corinthians 13:4–5

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

Choose **one relationship where a significant divide exists.**

Pray for that person and consider what experiences, fears, or values may have shaped their perspective. Then take one intentional step toward listening, understanding, or strengthening the relationship.

You do not have to resolve the disagreement. Take one step across the divide.

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 strengthen my family?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Share one relationship where you want to put the lessons from this series into practice. Pray for wisdom to hold firmly to truth while listening carefully, speaking graciously, and loving the person well.