

## Key Scriptures:

“The people worshiped the Lord throughout Joshua’s lifetime and during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived Joshua. They had seen all the Lord’s great works he had done for Israel. Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110. They buried him in the territory of his inheritance, in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the Lord or the works he had done for Israel.” - **Judges 2:7-10 CSB**

“These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” - **Deuteronomy 6:1-7 NIV**

“After this I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. I will even pour out my Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days.” - **Joel 2:28-29 CSB**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - **Acts 1:8 CSB**

## Sermon Points:

According to the Barna Research Group:

1-35% of youth in the US believe the church is irrelevant and hypocritical.

2-60% of students who grew up in church end up walking away. (Going once every 2 months)

3-75% of Christian teens read the Bible once a month or less

1. **EQUIP** the next generation
  - a. It starts **AT HOME**
  - b. **Make Church a Non-Negotiable weekly family priority**
2. **EMPOWER** the next generation
  - a. **The ceiling of the current generation’s faith should be the floor that the next generation launches from**
3. **ENGAGE** the next generation
  - a. **Parents are the Primary spiritual influence in their kid’s lives. But they shouldn’t be the only spiritual influence in their kid’s lives.**
  - b. **When we COMMIT to serve the next generation we ENSURE that our legacy lasts longer than we do.**



VERTICAL.CHURCH

**Conversation starter.** Start light and fun conversation in your group about the series topic.

- Talk about an embarrassing conversation you had with your parents/guardian or children that was meant to teach something but got awkward. (An example might be the birds and the bees conversation or getting caught doing something strange.)

**Contemplate.** Ask questions to get your group thinking about these principles.

- Know this too, of kids who went to church weekly growing up, there’s an almost zero percentage rate of them walking away from their faith and never returning when they get old. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-7. How can parents and others in older generations equip today’s kids and youth to have lasting faith?
- What does Jeremy mean when he makes the sermon point, “The ceiling of the current generation’s faith should be the floor that the next generation launches from?” Explain ways this might be accomplished.

**Contribute.** Ask questions that create personal openness in your group.

- Read Acts 1:8. Since the power of the Holy Spirit comes on all believers, in what ways are you encouraging or discouraging the next generation to live in His power? Explain.

**Cry out to God.** Pray intensely for your group on the topic.

Father, we thank You for today’s kids and youth. We ask that You work on our hearts to always encourage them to walk out their faith. While the parents are the primary spiritual influence, we know that we all have the responsibility of influencing the next generation of believers. Help us own that responsibility. Thank You for trusting us with Your children. It is in Jesus’s name we pray, amen.

**Commit to change.** What’s a new area to grow with the Lord?

- I will have my children or dependents involved weekly in the youth or kids ministries.
- I will empower the next generation by signing up to serve in the youth or kids ministries.