ROOM FOR GOD

Gen Z members are anxious about everything. This generation feels the weight of expectation that they live lives of meaning and purpose. These kids want to be “good” people, but they also want to define what “good” means. Even God’s Word is open to the subjective interpretation. The largest single religious category for this emerging group is: agnostic.

MESSAGE FROM JOSH

One of the biggest gifts Christian parents can give their Gen Z youth is a safe place to ask questions, express doubts, and process what they experience in secular culture.

The Church needs to step up its game, too. It needs to be honest and admit struggles, in order to build relationships with youth who demand authenticity. The Church needs to show kids respect, but also not to pull punches as it stand for God’s truth to gently lead youth to question secular culture.

Both parents and the Church need to be willing to discuss the tough questions they’re asking.

Please access the full 371-page The World of Gen Z Portfolio at www.Josh.org/GenZ

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WHO IS GEN Z?

“Generation Z” members (also called Gen Z or iGen) are independent, stubborn, pragmatic individuals roughly 7-22 years old. Their defining cause, serving as the foundation for its behavior, is human inequality — and they'll harness technology to confront it.

Gen Z is the product of Generation X, a relatively small, jaded generation. As parents, Gen X try to give their children the safe, secure childhood they lacked. Though parenting is still the greatest trend that influences behaviors across generations, these protective moms and dads couldn’t completely shelter their kids from absorbing the anxiety of 9/11 and the U.S. recession.

FUTURE HEROES AND ENTREPRENEURS

This is a generation that values authenticity — give it to them real, or go away. They understand the world is hard for a lot of people, and they want to help. They want to be the heroes who somehow fix the massive problems that have been handed them, including war, pollution, poverty, and social injustices.

PLUGGED IN AND STRESSED OUT

Since a Gen Z individual has, on average, an attention span of six seconds, researchers don’t yet fully know how tech addiction has affected their brains or will impact their future selves. What is known, however, is that online time is not making them happier or more well-adjusted to real-life.

READY TO ADULT?

Members of Generation Z hold few things dearer than acceptance and inclusivity. Yet what this generation doesn’t realize is that Google and social media just might be causing them to think that they know more than they actually do. Searching wide doesn’t equate to searching deep.

NO GENDER CONSTRAINTS

Gen Zs are unconstrained by traditional gender roles. Some, in fact, are choosing to discard gender and demanding that society also adjust its view. More than two-thirds of this generation believe that gender does not define a person. One pediatric journal found that today’s young people are 329% more likely than adults to identify as transgender.