**Session #1 -Understanding the Next Generation**

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Intro – Mark helped do some of the work with *UnChristian* and *You Lost Me* with Barna research.

1. Generational research is more of an art than a science.
2. Builders are those born 1927 – 1945 part of the “greatest generation” They are the makers of infrastructure- they saw innovations would free the soul. Thought was *Build exterior world and you will free the soul* – carousel of tomorrow. We can dream it we can do it …Disney came from this. Films of the future were birthed. Now we live with Amazon Prime which has moved to 4 day week …greed stepped in and changed it. Builder generation would say, “I love you. Look at the roof over you.” Build exterior and that will change the interior
3. Boomers are those born 1946 – 1964 – we screwed it up. We cared about hope, love and peace. We focused on the inner generation. 70 million people fit in this classification. Boomers have held onto leadership for too long. They have created more activity and then want to retire. Lead Pastors median age have moved from 45 to 54. The financial crisis hit in 2008 and rocked this world. [Editorial comment- I am pretty sure Jesus loves Boomers best. I just can’t verse]
4. Busters are born 1965 – 1979 – Generation X / Busters– *Reality Bites* is a key movie 35 – 40 million ½ the size of Boomer and live in their shadow. Born under “the pill” for contraception. We were surprises …latch key kids for this generation. We occupied spaces.
5. Millennial/ Gen Y were born 1980 – 1995 – We have trophies for everyone. Not as entitled as much as they think they are. Born into gender reveal wave and an industry was built on that. Entire channels dedicated to programming. *Baby gap* was part of an entire series of stores dedicated to make you look cool. They are the generation that are doing what the other generations are thinking of doing.
6. Digitals (Gen Z) were born 1995 – 2009 Digital kids– never had a breath where WiFi is NOT in the air. Grew up with smart phones and everything has a chip in it.
7. Generation Alpha are born 2010 – 2025 – Born to those later in life. More money and time and opportunities
8. The times shape our own bias and us.
9. Key question – are Millennials extending adolescence or emerging as adults?
10. Direction setting questions Mark Matlock laid out
11. Identity - Who am I?
12. Autonomy what decisions are mine to make? Where do I have freedom?
13. Belonging – where and with whom do I fit in?
14. Epistemology – who is my trusted source of truth
15. Kara Powell with Fuller Youth Institute and Merton Strommen with Search Institute asked similar questions but just different language
16. Generationally there is a changing landscape – multi cultural is a norm with Generation Z
17. Different is expected. Homogeneity can mean we all share values.
18. Sexuality – is something other than heterosexual 12%. The TV show “Glee” was a key definer of this cultural shift.
19. Gender is how someone feels, not one’s birth sex. 33%/ 37% Gender as central to their sense of self. A new mental map has overlapped their thinking. 29% know someone who has changed their gender identity.
20. Three different forces …how each generation defines itself.
21. Gen Z has untold access to information and celebrities. It isn’t the information they lack but wisdom to sort it out.

Best generation – WW2, work ethic, values/ morals / honest

Boomers – work ethic, respectful, smarter

Gen x – technology, work ethic, conservative/ trad, smarter

Millennial – technology, music / pop culture/ liberal and tolerant, a clothes

Do you sleep with cell phone? 83% of Millenials do.

57% use screen media 4+ hours per day. The term now is Screenagers

**Access to information is not equivalent to wisdom – the next generation needs wisdom**

Don't have the gravitas – combine it with wisdom and live a life of reflection.

1. Alienation – phone phobia

5% of children born to unwed mothers in 1960 // 41% today are born to unwed mothers. When we do haven’t had same biological bottom lines, you will see the changes. Nuero biological attachments.

Nature of adulthood has extended – Millenials trying to find out who I am? Don't understand each other, see folks and don't connect together.

Thought – they invented a sharing economy because largest % of millennials felt the effects of unemployment during Obama/ Bush window.

They are pushing off major life transitions by 30. Leaving home/finishing independent, getting married, and having a child. Fear of losing a job, not there.

1. Authority /Identity - How do I know it is true?

The American Bible Society (ABS) research over 6 years old beginning in 2012

How studying the Bible changes you… how reading the Bible impacts you

Research of ABS showed

* 4x times – give more
* Engage more 21%
* Antagonistic – skeptics …got all kind of errors. 17% going up
* Every major authority has failed them
* Clinton mess// athletes aren't models //banking has failed them /// Catholic sexual mess// doubt has come… you more interested in problem than even a pro. People are already vetting and sifting out information themselves.

i.e. Mormons are now researching critiques

Google is not finding the answers but supporting their doubts.

Middle Eastern – research is showing

Cohabitation – Loshada ratio ? )(Note: didn’t quite follow this)

5:2 ratio Pastoral experiences – clergy health and well being from Notre Dame.

**Jeff Arnett Parenting your 20 year old**

**Only know this way.**

**Launching (18 - 22) new stage of growing up**

**Exploring (22-24) explore adolescents**

**Landing phase (26 – 29)**

College is now a ½ way not launching pad. Children is amiable

Life in the body can fill. Now Gen Z is asking same Direction setting questions again, at this stage. Now they can fill that in. Not a hard science.

Take Arnett’s observations as Descriptive not perspective.

Practical Directions -

Despite the research don't assume you know them

They expect to make an impact earlier in life…grew up with American Idols

No barriers – not for marketing // tools to accomplish // realities

They have a lots more “hits” on Facebook as compared to disappointments.

We need to involve them sooner than we want to let them do

We can't assume the “get it” like we do, need framing. We have rich theological way knowledge

Create for positive impact. We build together.

As leaders we must lose using the entitlement lens. That has to stop. Need to differentiate entitlement verse indifferent.

**Fellowship Time and space – be with people in unhurried ways.**

True collaboration – we are the body of Christ. Need to think how are we to serve and lead them, appeal to imaginations. How can we get behind an idea they have?

Show them the power – connect them to the source/ stop and pray for them, stop and pray for them. Neo charismatic churches arise. Is doing good at church the same as Starbucks doing good…. Is it really any different?

Reverse mentoring – mutual relationship we learn together.

2 key sites to see research on how Bible – Branding companies

Brand is a promise to a customer. Are they delivering on it?

Emotional triggers …what are they? 100 million who are they

Collective. Bible/insights

Lookinside.bible

**Session #2**

**Mark Matlock**

**Note: because of the globalization has blurred many of the lines.**

***Faith for Exiles – Helping a New Generation Jesus in a Digital Babylon***

**By David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock.**

1. **What does it Mean to Live in exile?** Think Esther, Daniel, Joseph, living

**Exile –** all living in exile. Judea Christian values have decreased.

**Nomads –** still living in spheres

**Prodigals** – those who have left the church ...were a part of the church. They are not a part of the church.

1. Jerusalem was the place where faith was at the center

Monotheistic /slower paced/homogeneous / central control / idol – pride and false piety

Babylon – was plurality / faith at margins/ accelerated and frenetic/ diverse/ open- source- how people are making decisions/ complex and bittersweet/ idol is fitting in and not missing out

Mark gave example of working with business leaders who are looking to redefine Christianity in New York

1. Now all four boxes – engaged 10% – identify as Christians /attend church once a month/ believe God’s Word is inspired/ Agree to commitment to Jesus is still meaningful today. Agree to major doctrines – resurrection/ something related to church life – more than just once a week

Unengaged –38% identify as Christians / attend church once a month/don’t strongly agree with Jesus and don’t see the Bible as only true source/ still go to church/ once a week people

Nomads- 30% identify as Christian / have not attended church in a month/ experience faith outside of church more than in/ taking faith out into the world

Prodigals-22% don't identify as Christians/ did so before age 18/

1. More determining factors of

Engaged – worship is important, I can contribute at church, Bible is central to our church, being mentored by someone , use my gifts,

This is really who we are ambassadors or exiles

A real encounter with Jesus – it seems basic but are we really leaning into Jesus or are we doing the Therapeutic Moralistic Deism “faith practices”?

Cultural Discernment – the world they are in and how they live it. How you navigate and walk through that.

Meaningful relationships – life groups would fit here. Do I belong here?

Vocational discipleship – how does vocation matter in their faith…here the gospel coalition can sing. People who have greatest cultural impact – leverage position and platform

Epic trust – Outward facing mission … I am trusting God in a significant way

**These practices create an incubator for exiles that lead to moments of Epic trust that make Jesus known to unbelievers.**

**The best case study is unpack this Biblically – Daniel 6**

Another example of epically trusting – Esther

1. What are 3 pathways for achieving this in your church –
2. How this looks in meaningful relationships –
3. Engaged – more adults in their lives where any adults in your faith community – 85%

I have at least one close friend I trust with my secrets – 85%

I have someone in my life I can go to for advice

I have someone who will encourage me to grow – 85%

I admire the faith of my parents

I feel emotionally close to someone at my church

1. Vocational discipleship

God’s unique calling in my life

The work I do at my job is making a positive impact in my world

God has called me to do my current work

I am excited about my career path

I conduct myself in my work place know that others are watching me

My church does a good job of helping me understand how I live out my faith in the workplace

I have received helpful input from a pastor or church worker about my education

I have learned how the Bible applies to my field or interest area.

1. Cultural Discernment –

How can I make any profession a Christian field?

Every career is a platform for the gospel

I give a lot of thought to my entertainment

I give a lot of thought to the content of the news

I enjoy spending time thinking about new ideas.

I am interested in learning about views of others, even if they disagree with my own views – do the Berea test

I disagree strongly with the biblical view of sexuality

Christian ethics towards unrealistic

Bible teaching is relevant to my life and is foundational of all teaching at my church

Wisdom is giving faithfully at my church.

Help live wisely when it comes to technology

Does your church give you wisdom on how to live differently in your wisdom?