

# — The Challenge of Generations —

## **Introduction**

Preparing the soil for a move of God.

It's about people coming into a relationship with God.

We don't really know how things are going when we're right in the middle of it.

## **Signs of the Times**

God is building a generational blessing and legacy right now.

## **Stewarding the Move of God**

But what comes next is a test for us.

It's God's work to grow the kingdom, and it's for those who don't yet know him.

Mission exists where worship doesn't, because worship is the ultimate goal of all mission.

## **From One Generation to the Next**

God's in the business of relationships; that's His main deal, it's the whole thing.

Genesis 12:1-3

Exodus 6:7

This is powerfully illustrated in Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11:32-38: "the world was not worthy of them."

Can you imagine living a life of faith like that?

"And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11:39-40 ESV)

## **New Wine & New Wineskins**

The challenge of new people coming in, and young people rising up.

When the culture shift happens, when the season change comes, when the new wineskin is being prepared, how do we respond?

When the hippies were ruining the carpet, Chuck Smith said, "Then rip up the carpet!"

But for this move of God to shift us deeply, we have to mix these generations together.

New people, Youth & Young Adults – they need your wisdom, your experience, the deep wells you've dug with the Lord. And whether you like it or not, many of us need their passion and energy and fresh eyes.

## **Your life on display**

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV)

Stop for a moment and ask yourself: Is it easier to share my knowledge, my resource, my money, my \_\_\_\_\_, than my actual life? What if it meant people coming into my house and taking up my time? Knowing the real me and all that I struggle and celebrate through?

Malachi 4:5–6

Luke 1:16–17

Finite and infinite games: the way we approach life.

1 Corinthians 4:14–17

Do you live a life worthy of imitation?

## Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen God use relationships to establish His kingdom?
2. Karen Wilson: *"This church is amazing! You have something unique here. You should all be inviting your friends every week!"* Thoughts?
3. God's main way of blessing His people, and those who are yet to come to know Him, is through relationship. What state are your relationships in? Are they healthy enough (not perfect, remember?) to reflect God's love to those who need it?
4. What would it take for you to put aside your preferences in order to reach a generation or people group for the Lord?
5. What is getting in the way of using your God-given gifts and talents to help people come into relationship with Him, be it for the first time or in deepening intimacy?
6. Read Hebrews chapter 11: how does reading these stories stir your faith? What would your entry into the 'Hall of Faith' say?
7. Is it easier to give something external to those rising up (ie money, information, a book, etc) than to share something internal with them? What is stopping you doing both?
8. God has blessed you with so much – what do you have that you can give away to the emerging generation that would bless them and raise them up?
9. What can you see the emerging generation doing or believing that you need to incorporate into your faith-walk?
10. The next generation has 10,000 teachers, but not many spiritual parents. What would it look like for you to shift between spiritual 'teaching' to spiritual 'parenting' the next generation?
11. Do you live a life worthy of imitation?