

September 19 – 25, 2009
REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

In this lesson we will see the importance of reaching the next generation, those under thirty years of age. The time is now to reach this generation!

- I. Jesus talks about the harvest - John 4:28-35.
 - A. Verse 35 - Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman about the harvest. "There are still four months and then comes the harvest. Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" Harvest is now! You have to see it. The most open, receptive, and ready harvest is with children.

- II. Why it is important to go after the harvest.
 - A. How different generations have identified themselves as Christians.
 1. Post World War II – 60% of people were identified as Christians.
 2. In the 1960-70's – 35% of people were identified as Christians.
 3. In the 1980-90's – 17% of people were identified as Christians.
 4. 2000-present - it is predicted that only 4% will be identified as Christians. This generation must be touched, reached, and impacted with the gospel.

- III. Let your heart be turned to the next generation.
 - A. Malachi 4:5-6 - "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" – v. 6.
 - B. Luke 1:15-17 – "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" – v. 17.
 - C. It is time to pray, give, and serve the younger generation.

- IV. Scriptures for the younger generation.
 - A. Jeremiah 1:4-10 – God's will is to use the young people.
 - B. I Timothy 4:12 – "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

A. You can pray, give, and serve. You can mentor a college-age student, work with the children's ministry, minister to teenagers, bring neighborhood kids to church with you. You can coach a Little League team.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When you think of the harvest, do you think of the generation under thirty years of age?
- Has there been an urgency in you to reach the next generation?
- What is your part in reaching this generation?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Some suggestions for practical ways you can get involved in ministering to the younger generation: You could volunteer on a Victory bus route, work with the Mobile Kidz Club trucks, mentor a single mom's child. Work with the 3D or 24-7 ministry and help disciple young people. You could volunteer at the Dream Center to coach a sports team or help with computer training.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: Malachi 4:6 – "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."