

The New Youth Boom: Pt. 1 Voice



STARTERS (10 minutes)

School shootings in the United States are raising a lot of questions. What is your biggest question?

- Why do young people have so much access to guns?
- Why would a fellow student choose to shoot their classmates?
- Where are the adults? Why aren't they protecting us?
- Other

Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:

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- What is your biggest concern about school safety?
 - Why do you think this is happening so frequently?
 - What patterns or instances of violence do you remember when you were a youth?
 - Do you think violence is more prevalent now than in the past? Or is it simply more reported?
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In the Know (15 minutes)

After reading the information below, if your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss.

Check out just a few of the cultural milestones experienced by the last four generations. These milestones serve as markers, that members of that generation can all understand, relate to, and share stories about.

Youth Booms Past: Cultural Milestones

Boomer Youth Boom: 1964 to 1971: The Beatles, Anti-war movement, Women's rights, Civil rights, Sex, Drugs, & Rock'n'Roll.

Generation X Youth Boom: 1986 to 1993: Challenger Disaster, Berlin Wall, MTV, Latch-Key Kids, Grunge, Hip Hop, Postmodern

Millennials Youth Boom: 2004 to 2011: Facebook, Perpetual wars, the Great Recession, American Idol, Pop Punk, R&B, Hipsters

Generation Z Youth Boom: 2018: Proliferation of electronic screens, Tech revolution, Streaming, A new kind of diversity, Shootings

Youth Booms – A phenomena that happens about every eighteen years, when the leading edge (the oldest members) of the youngest generation turns eighteen and are seniors in high school. A youth boom signals the beginning of a seven-year time period when a generation exerts its influence over a whole culture. With the events unfolding after the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, are we witnessing the start of Generation Z's youth boom?

Share your thoughts about youth booms:

1. What do you think about the idea of youth booms?
2. What youth booms have you been a part of or witnessed?
3. What events or things would you add to the brief lists of cultural milestones for each generation?
4. Do you think the school walkouts by High School students signals the beginning of a new youth boom?

Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passages from 1 Samuel 3:1-11. Ask another person to read the Background.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

1 Samuel 3:1-11

Background:

The books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel in the Old Testament tells how Israel went from a group of loosely affiliated tribes who were at the mercy of their enemies to becoming the most powerful Kingdom in the Middle East led by King David. This dramatic change starts when a young teenager heard and responded to God's call. Samuel, who had been raised in the Temple at Shiloh, was an altar boy who served the Priest Eli, who could barely see. In the middle of the night, Samuel heard a voice and naturally thought Eli was calling him. After the third time, Eli knew something special was happening, God was calling Samuel. Heeding Eli's instructions, when Samuel heard the voice again, he responded to God and received God's call in his life. Because Samuel said yes to God, he found his voice and became a leader for the people of Israel.

Questions for Discussion:

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

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1. What was Eli's role, as an adult, to help Samuel hear the voice of God?
 2. Why does God call us to follow?
 3. How does responding to God by saying "yes" help us to find our voice?
 4. Has it ever taken you more than one time to understand a call to action?
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Making it Personal (10 minutes)

"We call BS." Emma Gonzalez, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to lawmakers and gun advocates. (In this quote, BS does not mean Bible Study! jk lol)

1. Where do you see BS in the actions and inactions of people today?
2. What does your faith say about your need to stand up?
3. For what and for whom do you need to raise your voice?
4. When you were an adolescent, can you remember an instance of hypocrisy or cover up? (instances of bs)

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

Instructions for Leaders

Each participant will need a copy of the material. You can find this at

<https://blog.umcdiscipleship.org/the-new-youth-boom-pt-1-voice-from-the-future-of/>

If possible, spend 34 minutes as a group listening to the podcast, then use this guide to tease out discussion in addition to reactions from the audio podcast.

Why Use This in a Group?

People best learn when they are in conversations with others. The format of this resource is designed to generate discussion and interaction. Rather than having a large-group discussion, the participants will break into groups of two, three, or four during the lesson. Instead of having the discussion dominated by one or two people, this grouping allows everyone to get involved. To get the most out of this study, be sure to follow the instructions in the material.

Starters	Each lesson has a survey or set of questions for each participant to read and to answer. (Provide pencils or pens for them to use.)
Discussion Questions	First have them share with one or two other people, then with the whole group.
In the Know	An article based on the sermon notes for Rehab will focus on the topic of the lesson
Reflection on the Bible	The Scriptures are used to help the participants focus on the theme for the lesson.
Background	This gives a brief commentary on the passage to help participants understand the Scripture and apply it to their lives.
Questions for Discussion	Break into groups of three or four to discuss the Bible material.
Making It Personal	Questions designed to take it deeper are provided.
Close in Prayer	Close in Prayer.

Time: This lesson is designed for 60 minutes, 90 minutes if the group listens to the podcast together. Alongside each section you will see a recommended time for that particular part of the study. To facilitate greater discussion, you may instruct the group to focus on one question in the discussion following the scripture and in “Making it Personal.”

This study is based on “The Future Of...Podcast” developed by Craig Kennet Miller at Discipleship Ministries and Chris Wilterdink at Young People’s Ministries. This is the first of a four-part series on Youth Booms. Podcast will be released every other week in March and April of 2018.

Other Resources:

The [Youth Worker Collective](#) is full of resources and support for youth workers, created by youth workers.

Have youth who want to process a conversation on guns or violence together? Check out this excellent process, already in use by several churches and conferences! The conversation becomes youth lead! <https://youthworkercollective.com/from-safe-spaces-to-brave-spaces-a-tool-to-process-with-youth/>

Need help figuring out how to help youth in your context process a tragedy?

<https://youthworkercollective.com/processing-tragedy-youth-worker-collective-podcast-episode-18/>

Have a hard time dealing with death? <https://youthworkercollective.com/dealing-with-death-in-your-community-youth-worker-collective-podcast-episode-15/>