

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions March 4th, 2018

Ice Breaker:

Was there someone older who made a difference in you and your faith when you were a kid or teenager? Who were they? What did they do? And what difference do you think it meant it made in your life?

Next Gen Sunday:

Once a year Live Oak takes a Sunday to cast vision and equip Live Oakers to make a difference in the next generation. As a church, we believe God wants us to reach and serve the next generation.

Read Psalm 78:1-8.

How does this passage speak to this focus on the next generation? What observations and applications can we make from this passage?

Read Psalm 78:72 – “*And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.*”

Doug suggested that we should think of the four things that David did as a leader to think about how we could seek to grow our personal impact in the next generation:

- ***Shepherd them*** – To know and care for the next generation personally and walk with them through seasons of life.
- ***Have integrity of heart*** – Live our an authentic faith.
- ***Develop skillful hands*** – develop skills to know and serve the next gen.
- ***Lead them*** – Seek to point them in the right direction with words and example.

Brainstorm ideas of what it would look like to develop your next gen investment potential for each of those four areas.

Which one of these four do you need to focus on personally?

READ: Matthew 9:36-38 = see and seek to understand the next gen...

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

How do you think this passage describes the next generation and how we should invest in them?

What are the challenges you observe about the difficulty of being a kid or teenager at this time in history? What are their challenges? And what are the barriers that make it challenging to make a difference in the next generation?

At Live Oak we say this phrase a lot about discovering how you could invest in the next generation: ***“Be the person you needed when you were that age.”***

Talk about the person you needed in your childhood and teenage years. What does that say about who you might seek to be for someone else?

1 Thessalonians 2:8 *Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

How does this verse inform the idea of how to invest in the next generation?

Next Steps:

Doug said this during the message: *“Everyone should **do something** to know and invest in the lives of the next generation.”* Sometimes it is tough to know where to get started with investing in the next generation.

Research shows that every kid and student needs 5 adults in their lives that know them, believe in them, and invest in them in some way. Flip that around and make a list of 5 next names that you could potential pray for, know, serve, and invest in the in the near future. If you cannot think of names for all 5, then share the places you will seek to find those names (neighborhood, family, at Live Oak in Kids Ministry, Student Ministry, or College Ministry, etc.)

Have every one share - Who are your 5?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Then, with your 5, what are your next steps with them? Be specific. (Examples: pray for them, write them an encouraging note, sign up to serve in a next generation ministry, etc.)

Close in **PRAYER** by praying for the next generation, the next gen ministries at Live Oak, and for each other as you seek to be someone who makes an impact on someone in the next generation.