

CARRYING THE TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Joshua and the Israelites were obedient to God and miraculously defeated Jericho because of the hand of God and not by their own works. Obedience is key!

They encountered numerous obstacles along the way to the promised land, at one point, even questioning whether they should keep following Joshua, but they did and were blessed for it.

Here in the U.S.A., experts have defined several generations (dates are approximate):

Traditionalists– Born 1900-1945

Baby Boomers– Born 1946-1964

Generation X– Born 1965-1980

Generation Y– Born 1981-2000

Generation Z– Born 2001-Present

Events that influenced these generations:

Traditionalists– World War II and The Great Depression.

Baby Boomers– Civil Rights, Vietnam War, Sexual Revolution and Cold War with Russia.

- Have the highest divorce rate and second marriages in history.
- The American Dream was promised to them and they pursue it.
- As a result, they are seen as greedy, materialistic and ambitious.

Generation X– Watergate, the end of the Cold War, downsizing, moms work, increase in divorce rate.

Perceptions shaped by:

- Having to grow up and take care of themselves early.
- Watching their politicians lie.
- Watching their parents get laid off.
- First generation that will not do as well financially as their parents did.

Generation Y– Digital Media, school shootings, terrorist attacks including 9/11, AIDS, typically grew up as children of a divorce, more sheltered than any other generation as parents strive to protect them from the evils of the world, were kept busy as kids, first generation of children that had schedules.

Core Values:

Traditionalists– Adheres to rules, dedication and sacrifice, discipline, don't question authority, duty before pleasure, family focus, hard work, law and order, loyalty, patriotism, respect for authority, responsibility, savers of money, trusted the government.

Baby Boomers– Anti-war, anti-government, anything is possible, equal rights, equal opportunities, extremely loyal to their children, involvement, optimistic, personal gratification, spend now worry later, team oriented, trust no one over 30, work, want to make a difference.

Generation X– Diversity, fun, highly educated, independent, informality, seek life balance, self reliance, skepticism, cynical.

Generation Y– Achievement, extreme fun, high morals, highly tolerant, hotly competitive, like personal attention, self confident, members of a global community, most educated generation, extremely techno-savvy, extremely spiritual, optimistic.

How they deal with money:

Traditionalists– Put it away, pay cash and save, save, save.

Baby Boomers– Buy now, pay later.

Generation X– Cautious, conservative, save, save, save.

Generation Y– Earn to spend.

The differences between generations are called the generation gap.

Problems with modern society:

1. Young people want to know if the things older people consider important is relevant to them.
Do these things really matter?
2. Relationships between generations are often distant.
3. Young people are wondering if the older generations are part of something real. Is it genuine?

The keys to making a smooth pass of the torch:

1. Share your past and be open and honest.
What miracles has God done in our lives?
What has God saved us from?
How has God helped us in hard times?
2. Give the credit where it is due, to God.
3. Keep the most important, the most important.
Money is only a tool.
The purpose of money is to benefit the Kingdom.
Meet with God's people.
Read God's Word.
Talk to God.

We need to love our kids unconditionally, but we need to discipline them consistently.

Pray for those in authority.

It is not always easy to obey.

You must have your own faith, you cannot not live on anyone else's faith.

SCRIPTURE LIST

Judges 2:6-23

Romans 7:14-25

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Proverbs 16:18

1 Timothy 6:10

Mark 8:36

Hebrews 10:25

1 Timothy 4:12