



## what is it?

Discuss:

What would Gateway look like if Next Gen didn't exist?

What would a healthy and thriving kids/student ministry look like at a church like Gateway?

Next Gen Mission: To help kids/students connect into a growing community of multiplying Christ-followers.

### Next Gen is strategic, vital and urgent...

**85** % of people become Christ followers between the ages of 4-14.

**90** % of 13 year olds consider themselves to be "Christians."

In the United States:

5-12 year olds have a **32** % chance of becoming a Christ follower.

13-18 year olds have a **4** % chance of becoming a Christ follower.

Those 19 and older have a **6** % chance of becoming a Christ follower.

A persons spiritual condition at age **13** is a strong predictor of their spiritual profile as an adult.

Discuss:

Briefly describe your general reaction to the information you just heard.

What about Next Gen being Strategic, Vital or Urgent struck you the most and why?

### Next Gen isn't just about kids and students...

Familiar connection path:

Attend >> Connect in S.G or R.P. >> Take steps toward spiritual growth >> Serve as a group

Alternative connection path:

Attend >> Serve in Next Gen >> Connect through serving team >> Take steps toward spiritual growth

"Sixty-two percent of those interviewed gave us a response that indicated their ministry involvement to be the glue that held them to the church. From the perspective of the formerly unchurched, being involved in ministry has been the key factor to their assimilation in the church. More than any other factor, the formerly unchurched told us that their service and ministry in the church keeps them coming back each week." - *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched* by Thom S. Rainer

Discuss:

What can we do to rally more leaders to being "on mission" on Sunday mornings?

### Next Gen can't do it alone...

Biblical worldview

A biblical worldview, as defined by the Barna study, is believing that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is completely accurate in all of the principles it teaches; Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic; a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

**<1** % of 18 to 23 year olds have a biblical worldview.

**85** % of young adults ages 23-30 stopped attending church regularly for at least a year between ages 18-22.

"But one of the lessons that emerged from the research on which my earlier book was based was that churches alone do not and cannot have much influence on children. In fact, the greatest influence a church may have in affecting children is by impacting their parents." - *Revolutionary Parenting* by George Barna

**66** % of parents believe they have the primary responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of their child.

**70** % of those same parents admit to handing off that responsibility to their churches.

Fewer than one out of five parents of young children believe they are doing a good job of training their children morally and spiritually.

Discuss:

Describe how spiritual training in your home (or lack of it) determined your spiritual trajectory.

For those who didn't have any spiritual training in the home, what might be different in your life today had you experienced this training?