

# DISCIPLE THE NEXT GENERATION

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*"And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel." - Judges 2:10*

Joshua and his generation experienced and witnessed the power of the Lord in ways they could not imagine. They crossed the Jordan river, they saw the walls of Jericho crumble down, they won countless battles despite being an underdog, and even witnessed the sun standing still. They saw the might of God at work right before their very eyes; they experienced His faithfulness every step of the way; they were able to conquer the promised land not by their own strength but through God's empowerment. All this contributed and caused them to not only know God more but to trust and follow Him all the days of their lives.

However, this was followed by a heartbreaking truth, one that we would not expect, that is, after Joshua and his generation died, along came a generation who did not know God and the work that He had done for Israel (v.10). This happened after all that they had been through and despite faithfully serving the Lord all the way till the end (v.7). They were not able to successfully disciple and pass on the Word of God to their children. And because of this, the people of Israel, their next generation, did what was right in their own eyes - things that were evil in the sight of God (v.11). They abandoned the Lord of their fathers and went after other gods (v.12).

As someone who ministers and works with the NextGen, it is my heart's desire to share and pass on the love and grace that I have experienced from God to them. However, the truth is I can only do so much, even the church can only do so much, because at the end of the day, the discipleship of the children (our next generation), happens primarily in their home. It is the parents' role and responsibility to teach and show the ways of the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9). The church, on the other hand, is here to partner and support that cause.

I am blessed and privileged to have been raised in a Christian family who not only taught us about God but also demonstrated His ways. Though my family and parents are not perfect, our God is the one who continues to fill in the gaps. And so the question I pose today is, "What are you doing to disciple your children?"

It is my hope and prayer that the next generation will continue to come to know and seek our God and that this present generation will have the growing burden and desire to minister to the generation after them. For the knowledge, experiences, and love that we have from God is meant to be passed on.

## NextGen Growth Group

GCF South Metro is a Multiplying Disciple Church and our main vehicle in doing so is the Growth Group, as such, it is also important for our NextGen to be part of one. This is also our way of partnering with the home - the main frontline vehicle in discipling the children. As we would

always say, "Discipleship happens at home." As such, there are various Growth Groups that will support and strengthen our thrust of discipling our NextGen even in our current set-up. Growth groups that cater to the age appropriate needs of our children, youth, and young adults which also provides a venue to get to know new people, strengthen existing relationships, and more importantly, cultivate a growing desire to know and love our Lord.

Despite having limitations and not being able to have face to face meetings, it is my joy and thanksgiving to share that our NextGen Growth Groups are thriving and growing. All glory and praise to our limitless God!

And so I continue to encourage the youth and young adults who are not yet part of a Growth Group to be part of one. In the same way, I would like to challenge the parents to encourage their children to join and attend a Growth Group of their own. For more details, you can send us a message in our GCF South Metro Facebook page.

Join our upcoming events.  
For inquiries, visit our FB page.

