



JANUARY 2015

Purposeful Parenting
Connecting Church and Family
Deut.6:7

WHY NEXT GEN?

Do you ever hear or read things that just shock you? Sometimes so much so you can't sit still, but instead must do something about it? How about these statistics on number of High School graduates leaving the church:

88%: The Southern Baptist Convention's Family Life Council study in 2002

70%: LifeWay Research study in 2007 (LifeWay also found only 35% eventually return)

61%: "Barna study in 2006 -- "Most Twenty-somethings Put Christianity on the Shelf..."

As someone who has been a Student Pastor for 12 years +, this has been a discouraging statistic on multiple levels. At some point, we have to say that "if you always do what you've always done, you always get what you've always had".

That's the question our Mosaic student team wrestled with almost 4 years ago. If this stat is true, what can we do to change it?

Deuteronomy 6 talks about how we are to Love God fully and wholly. It goes on, though. It tells the people of Israel to not just live this way, but to raise the NEXT GENERATION to live this way as well.

Four years ago we saw that the current student ministry structure at Fellowship gave little to no exposure for children and students to see what "adult church" actually looked like. As a result, and semi-embarrassingly, many of our students didn't even know our congregational leader's name. We were unintentionally engraining within them a 3 year cycle of starting, engaging, but then leaving the Church. Every new 3 year grade shift left them in a new building, with new leaders, a new vision, and new vocabulary.

We had to change.

So we started a NEXT GEN strategy that gave our students the opportunity to engage the church body as a whole. The strategy began, and has sustained as follows:

Birth-3rd grade: Worship with adults 2-4 times a year.

4th-6th grade: Worship with adults 6-8 times a year.

7th-8th grade: Worship with adults the first Saturday of every month in a NEXT GEN service (12 times a year + 2-3 special events.)

9th -12th grade: Worship weekly with adults during a restructured and re-envisioned 2nd service.

The NEXT GEN strategy is not perfect. But it is an attempt to take biblical instruction to the Church and make it practical for our families. We want our students to value the Church as much as we want our adults to value, see, and disciple our NEXT GENERATION of believers.

We have seen this shift impact the Mosaic mindset as well in our call to make disciples. The adults in Mosaic are beginning to see children and students as part of their church family, and children and students are beginning to see Mosaic as their church. We pray that in the coming years we will see a growing trend of students who grow into mature, committed followers of Jesus rooted in the church and reaching the world.

Matt Newman and Nick Roland

Resources

Article

What Makes Faith Stick During College

Blog

<http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog>

Slugs and Bugs

Last Month we hosted a special concert for our preschool and elementary students. Below are some links to sign up for their newsletter and to get on their mailing list.

<http://www.slugsandbugs.com/store/>

<http://www.slugsandbugs.com/the-bacon/>

What's Happening?

Calendar of Events: January

January 3rd: **Next Gen Night**

January 7th: **Cell Worship**, Mosaic Students 7th-12th grade. 6:30-8:30 pm, Student Center

January 14th, 21st & 28th: **Mosaic Students Townhouses**, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Stay Connected



[Early Childhood](#) / [Elementary](#) / [Students](#)

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7