



I. INTRO

A. Thank you for helping us have a great summer!

II. WHAT IS NEXT GEN MINISTRY?

A. What is Next Gen?

- Next Gen is not a single program, it is an all-encompassing ministry, designed to disciple and develop the Next Generation from birth–12th grade and into young adulthood.

B. Four legs of a chair

- **Kids:** (Birth–6th): We'll plant seeds of faith and teach kids who they are in Christ.
- **Youth and young adults:** (7th–12th + 18–30) We create spaces where students can grow in identity, community and mission.
- **Empowering Parents:** We partner with parents, and help to resource them.
- **Leadership and service:** (ministry teams & Second Mile): We raise leaders who serve with Joy and lead with courage.

III. WHY IS NEXT GEN MINISTRY IMPORTANT?

A. A nation in decline

Isaiah 58:12 (ESV) And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

- A historical back-story
 - Written about **600 years before Jesus** by the prophet Isaiah, who was addressing Israel's **national decline and fracture**.
 - They were in spiritual decline.
 - They started practicing Godless values from surrounding nations.
- Eventually the enemy breached the wall, broke down their defenses and destroyed the city.

B. What is a breach?

- A breach is a military or battle term; it's the place where an enemy penetrates a wall or penetrates a line of defense and gets in.
- We have an enemy who will attack in the most vulnerable place it can find.

C. The family is first line of defense

- When the enemy is trying to breach a wall he attacks the most vulnerable, and who's most vulnerable? The young.



IV. ACTS: THEN, NOW, NEXT

A. The power of the Word of God and the Spirit of God

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

B. Things to know about Gen Z?

- Loneliest generation: 73 % chronically lonely.
- 42 % carry diagnosed mental-health conditions; 57 % medicated.
- 30 % identify LGBT; historic high suicide rates (+62 % since 2007).
- 71 % addicted to pornography (avg. first exposure 11–12 yrs).
- 40 % born out of wedlock; 34 % raised by a single parent.
- Spiritual drought: 34 % "religious none," only 8 % read the Bible daily.
- Projection: At current trends, 42 million may leave the church by 2050; modest revival could instead draw 22 million into faith.

C. You have to see it before you see it

- In 2,000 years the mission hasn't changed.
- The bible (and history) is full of examples of God using young people.
- There is no Junior Holy Spirit.
- The Jerusalem and Antioch churches.

1 John 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

- **At Joy Christian Center - We are building a generation who:**
 - Knows the voice of God.
 - Walks in the power of the spirit.
 - Honors the Word of God.
 - Serves with joy.
 - Leads with courage.
- **We don't:**
 - Babysit - we **BUILD**.
 - Just entertain - we **EQUIP**.
 - Just keep them safe - we **SEND THEM STRONG**.

D. Here's how you can help.

- **Pray:** Revival begins with prayer.
- **Serve:** Step into kids, students, young adults.
- **Give:** I can promise you no student or child will ever be turned away from encountering God.
- **Disciple:** Be intentional. Mentor one young person. Invite them into your life and faith.