

GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Life Connecting Teams ~ June 2026

New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

We will not hide them from their children but tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. (Psalm 78:4 ESV)

Objective: To gain an enlightened understanding of the compelling reasons we must teach future generations to live and to share the foundations of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction: In the Old Testament, Joshua succeeded Moses after his death. While the previous generation (the “Moses generation”) died in the wilderness, Joshua and Caleb were faithful, believing God could deliver them into the land of Canaan despite its challenges. Joshua was mentored under the guidance of Moses for 40 years prior to taking his position of leading the people into the Promised land. The story goes on to tell us in Judges 2:10 that there came a time when a generation came that did not know the Lord or His works. Dr. Tony Evans states, “*We must beware of this generational gap in faith. It is our responsibility as believers to bring our children along in understanding God’s character and history, otherwise, they may not see the relevance of faith in their own lives.*”

Lesson: Are we raising up the Joshuas God has placed in our lives?

You may be familiar with the term, the Joshua Generation. It is a biblical and prophetic term referring to a people or leaders called by God to move from the “wilderness” of spiritual stagnation into the “Promised Land” of God’s purposes. It draws its name from Joshua, Moses’ successor, who led the Israelites into Canaan after 40 years of wandering.

Before going any further, it is necessary to read the following biblical account of Joshua’s calling and commission. Moses led the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity; Joshua led them into the promised land.

God’s Commission to Joshua, recorded in Joshua Chapter 1: Please read the entire chapter for clarity and context.

The Vital Role of Generational Discipleship

Generational discipleship is the deliberate and intentional passing of faith, values, and practices across generations so that each generation equips the next to live out their faith effectively. It is both a spiritual responsibility and community-building practice. The “Joshua Generation” is seen as a time of divine opportunity to advance God’s kingdom. Believers are called to:

- Stop circling the mountain of inaction and step into the land of promise (**Joshua 1:3**).
- Engage in the life of the city as citizens of the kingdom through God honoring leadership. Build ministries and communities that reflect God’s character and prepare others for leadership.

Why It Matters: Please discuss the following points:

1. **Generational Discipleship Fulfills a Biblical Mandate** – Scripture commands believers to teach the next generation God’s truth (**Psalm 78:4**) and to pass on the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Neglecting this risks spiritual decline, as seen in the collapse of Israel’s faith when they failed to transmit God’s word.
2. **Builds a Self-Perpetuating Faith Community** – When older, more mature Christians invest in younger believers, and younger people learn from elders, a cycle of faith is created. This ensures that spiritual vitality is not lost to time. **2 Timothy 2:2**

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- 3. Strengthens Family and Church Identity** – Generational discipleship fosters a shared identity across age groups, creating a sense of belonging and continuity. It bridges the gap between home and church, ensuring that faith is nurtured in both environments. **Romans 12:4-5**
- 4. Addresses the Risk of Faith Loss** – Research shows that many committed youth leave their faith after high school, making early, consistent discipleship critical. Generational discipleship helps anchor young people in faith before they face the pressures of adulthood. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**
- 5. Mutual Spiritual Growth** – Elders gain fresh perspectives from younger generations, while youth benefit from the wisdom and experiences of those who have walked a longer journey. This mutual exchange deepens understanding and application of Scripture. **Proverbs 27:17**

What Happens When We Neglect the Mandate for Generational Discipleship?

Read the account in **Judges 2** where neglect to share the faith of their forefathers is recorded. Focus on **Judges 2:10-13**.

The “whole generation” was those who lived under Moses and Joshua and witnessed God’s mighty works. After they died, Israel no longer had living witnesses to God’s faithfulness, and a new generation arose without firsthand knowledge of His works.

We are challenged to teach the next generation about faith. Are we sharing what God has done, and teaching our children His promises, love, and deeds? If not, a spiritual gap can form.

The lesson for us today is clear: faith must remain active in our homes. Worship, prayer, Bible study, and shared testimonies help keep the next generation connected to God. We must intentionally pass on what we know of His character and faithfulness.

Remember in Prayer:

- Bishop Grannum, Founding Pastor; Pastor Bob Oliver and wife Lady Denise; Pastor Wangui Mwangi; Pastor Omar Barlow & wife Jeneen; Pastor Andrew Grannum & wife Chivas and each of their families.
- Ministers, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, NCC staff, and volunteers
- That our children will grow strong in their personal faith/ protection
- The needs of the New Covenant family, that we demonstrate love, unity, faithfulness, boldness in sharing the gospel
- The sick and shut-in; those who are grieving the passing of a loved one

https://godsblessing.com/commentary/judges/judges_2/

<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/7-powerful-traits-of-the-joshua-generation.html>