

Week 7: Sunday School (Philosophy of Next Generation Ministry)
I. Introduction

Sundays - "Church Gathered"

1. Corporate Prayer
2. Sunday School
3. Corporate Worship

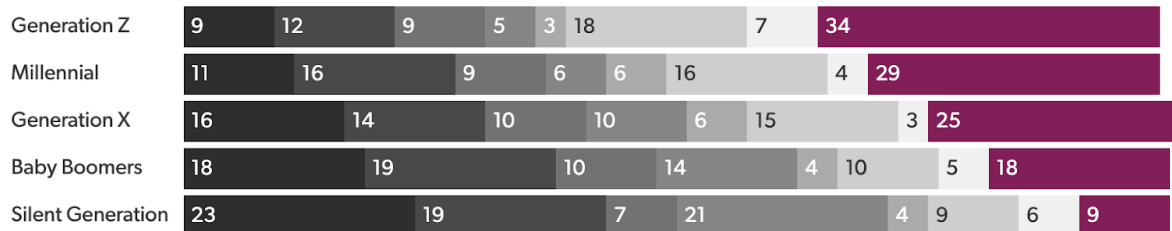
Lifeway Research (2017)

Age 17 - 69% attendance
 Age 18 - 58% attendance
 Age 19 - 40% attendance
 Age 20s - 34% attendance

Gen Z (Age 9-27)

Gen Alpha (Age 0-8)

White Evangelical Protestant
 White Mainline Protestant
 Black Protestant
 White Catholic
 Hispanic Catholic
 Other/Non-White Christian
 Major Non-Christian Religions
 Unaffiliated



Note: "Other" religions and refusals are not shown. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. Survey of US Adults [N=5,030].

Source: American National Family Life Survey, December 2021

II. What does Scripture teach us about discipling children?

1. Parents are the ones mainly called to disciple their children in the Lord

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 - 4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2. Church is a place where children are included as belonging to the church

1) Children are included as God's covenant people

Genesis 17:7 - And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Acts 2:38-39 - 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

2) Children are included in corporate worship with God's covenant people

Deuteronomy 29:10-12 - 10 "You are standing today, all of you, before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, 11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, 12 so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today,

Colossians 3:18-21 - 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

III. What does history teach us about discipling children?

1. Communal and family-oriented discipleship and education was the norm for most of history - outside and inside the church

IV. How will Joy of All Nations approach discipling children?

1. Covenant Worship
2. Family Worship
3. Sunday School
 - 1) Parent-led Sunday School
 - 2) Curriculum which integrates into Family Worship

V. Discussion Questions**Adults:**

- What might be relevant, helpful, convicting, or clarifying from what you heard?
- What are questions, concerns, clarifications you have from what you heard?

Children:

- What do you appreciate about your parents?
- Do you enjoy spending time with people like your parents or people that your age?
- What are some good things we learn by being with older people like our parents and grandparents?
- What are some good things we learn by being people that are our age?
- What is good and what is hard about worshiping on Sundays with all the church together?