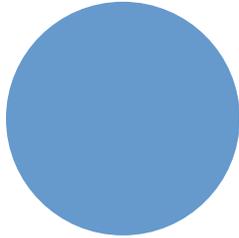


And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. Judges 2:7



JOSHUA GENERATION

What is the “Joshua Generation”?

In Judges 2:7, God indicates that his people stayed ***faithful to Him*** for two generations: all the days of Joshua and of the elders that outlived Joshua. The “Joshua Generation” program is about today’s generation ***servicing God faithfully and actively***, setting an example for the next generation. The goal is to develop our young men and young ladies for the future, while increasing the faith, leadership and teaching skills of our more mature men and women. Mom and Dad, it is about saving you and your children.

Every congregation of God's people needs well-trained and willing teachers, personal evangelists and leaders. Many congregations find these people in short supply. From a biblical perspective, we must increase our motivation and improve the training of Christians.

One of the greatest strengths of the Joshua Generation is that its focus, developing the next generation of Christians, involves the entire present generation participating in ***life-changing Christian growth***. The next generation will, without doubt, magnify either the weaknesses or strengths of today’s generation of God’s people. It is imperative that we strengthen the faith of our present generation if we wish to save the next.

Kindness, Honesty, Obedience, Godliness...

Joshua Generation focuses on 36 characteristics, chosen specifically as a basis for Christian development and leadership training. However, it is so much more than just a leadership course. It provides the framework of a congregation’s work, attitude and spirituality. It provides specific guidance for personal and home Bible study. It is a catalyst for special growth activities, classes, seminars, retreats and other projects by individuals, families and the congregation as a whole.

The characteristics involve all of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), the “Christian graces” (2 Peter 1:5-8), the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10), and many of the qualifications of eldership. Someone who becomes these things will be faithful to God and successful in life.

Appreciation Happiness Self-Control Respect Forgiveness Compassion Prayer Love Faithfulness

How Does the Joshua Generation Work?

The Joshua Generation program helps us accomplish the spiritual maturity we need as Christians and leaders. It promotes personal **spiritual growth** for all ages. It's an organized way to "work" God's plan in our lives. The 36-month rotation of characteristics provides a wider range of growth than many Christians experience in a lifetime. The constant, consistent, persistent incorporation of these characteristics using the tools and suggestions of the program is how **it works**.

- ◆ A monthly Joshua Generation **calendar**, featuring the monthly characteristic and customized with your congregation's special days.
- ◆ A **slogan** used by the members of the congregation to keep the characteristics in mind each month. (i.e. "Get caught being kind!")
- ◆ **Bulletins** provided for each week featuring the monthly characteristic: 1 main bulletin on the first Sunday, children's bulletins for the 2nd and 4th weeks and an adult bulletin on the third Sunday.
- ◆ **E-bulletins** delivered regularly to members' inboxes, focusing on some of the monthly Bible studies. These are helpful for gaining understanding in personal and family home devotionals.
- ◆ Two **sermons** a month on the featured characteristic.
- ◆ Proven methods of **memorization** to help write the scriptures on the hearts and minds of Christians and children.
- ◆ The **Next Generation Bible Class**: a 78-page prepared booklet to be used as an alternative class, personal or family home Bible study.
- ◆ **Mentoring** groups: Timothy or Barnabas mentoring programs; Dorcas or Hannah mentoring work.
- ◆ Special classes, seminars, lectureships, **activities and theme-oriented events** to be planned for individuals, families or congregations.

Have it God's Way

Human nature dictates "out of sight, out of mind." Burger King advertises hundreds of times a day all over the world. We can be no less diligent in keeping a soul-saving program in front of our members if we want them to gain the advantage (**saving their soul**) from this program.

"Let the word of
Christ dwell in you
richly in all
wisdom."
Colossians 3:16a

What is the Biblical Basis for the Joshua Generation?

God has provided specific guidelines for our life and salvation. We should never embark on a program in the Lord's church without Biblical authority. So, how does the Joshua Generation fit into His plan?



First, *God knows what He's talking about* (who can argue with that?).

- ◆ God teaches us that the basis of our salvation is knowledge. (2 Timothy 2:15; Hosea 4:6; James 1:21; Romans 10:17)
- ◆ God teaches that we must be immersed constantly, by repetition, in His Word. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9; Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)
- ◆ God teaches that ***we are what we think***: what goes into our minds is what comes out in actions and words. (Mark 7:20-23; Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 4:9)

Studying God's Word should be more constant than TV, ballgames, fishing, golf, etc. It should not be reduced to 15 minutes of Bible reading a day...or less. This program will engage the congregation in regular home Bible study, discussion and meditation.

Second, *believe in the possibilities*.

- ◆ God tells us that few will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14, 20:16; 22:14)
- ◆ God also tells us that entire congregations can be lost (Revelations 3:14-22), but entire congregations can also be saved (Revelations 3:7-13).
- ◆ God says He can do beyond what we can imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)
- ◆ God will do more if we do more. God teaches us to believe in the possibilities.

Third, believe that *people can and must change* in order to be saved.

We must continually repent. Repentance includes change and growth! People can sit in classes and worship services for a lifetime and learn almost nothing. In surveys of children and adults who have been in the church for years, many do not know the books of the Bible, let alone the details of various Bible events and stories and the application of their principles to our own lives. Not only must we fill our members with knowledge, ***we must affect change*** in their lives if they are to successfully combat Satan. If we sit still, we die. The Joshua Generation has built-in processes to motivate and accomplish essential Christian growth.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20

Believe.

Change.

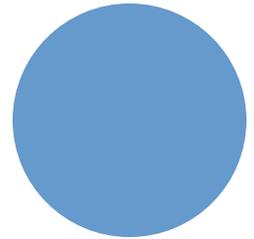
Grow.

JOSHUA GENERATION

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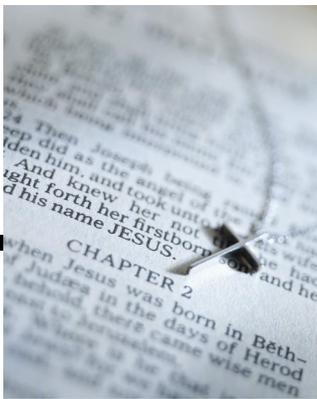
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**Growing God's way is
always the right
way!!**

The Joshua Generation program is for every Christian: It will help a young family to grow their children spiritually. A couple can help each other get to heaven. Individuals, young or old, can challenge themselves to grow closer to God and follow His plan for their lives. Is your congregation large with young families and lots of children? The JG program is for you. Is your church family small and made up mostly of mature Christians? This program is for you.

No matter the dynamics of the congregation, growing God's way is always the right answer. Thriving in the 36 characteristics listed below will ignite a new excitement for all of God's people. Go ahead—challenge yourself! Begin today and grow God's way.



The 36 Characteristics

Year One

1. Kindness
2. Honesty
3. Obedience
4. Godliness
5. Appreciation
6. Happiness (Laughter)
7. Self Control
8. Courtesy
9. Respect for Authority
10. Biblical Knowledge
11. Forgiveness
12. Virtue (Purity)

Year Two

1. Compassion
2. Friendliness (Hospitality)
3. Cooperation
4. Wisdom
5. Purposeful (Planning)
6. Diligence
7. Prayerfulness
8. Patience
9. Servant Attitude
10. Responsible
11. Penitent
12. Committed

Year Three

1. Courageous Love
2. Thoughtful (Meditative)
3. Communication Skills
4. Respect for Others
5. Evangelistic
6. Contentment
7. Independent
8. Godly Influence
9. High Standards (Excellence)
10. Faithful
11. Peacemaker
12. Leadership