



THE STATE — OF THE — YOUTH

FEBRUARY 2024

GEN Z LINGO

“Trust”; statement. - The new substitute for “Facts”. Short for “Trust me.” or “I’m telling the truth.” Unlike “Facts”, it is not in response from another, but a tag at the end of the speakers own statement.

Example:

David: “We need more storage space in the Activity Center.”

Jonathan: “I can build a really nice wall that will do that. *Trust.*”

412 LATELY

What a snowy, icy January that was!

Greetings from the staff at JAXSBC, we hope your holiday season was one to remember and that Lord blessed you and your family. Now that everyone is back to school and we have nothing to look forward to Easter, the 412 Student Ministry is also back up and running. The Christmas season was an absolute blast for us! I will refer you to the January edition for all that we did in the month of December. As for what went in the month of January, we like to take the first month of the year a little slow here at JAXSBC. As for 412, we had our regularly scheduled Sunday Morning Bible Studies which are going great! We have been walking through The Disciple’s Cross together each week. I love The Disciple’s Cross and how it teaches us to be better followers of Jesus. If that study, or the book it is based on, is something you are interested in I would love to talk to you more about it sometime!

As for Wednesday Nights, we did not have AXIS the first 3 weeks which were partly due to the winter weather. However, we did have our annual Winter Bible Study on the book of James. I enjoy integrating The YouVersion Bible App into our yearly rhythm to show our students how they can use technology to stay connected to each other and keep each other accountable through regular Bible study, and The Bible App is a great place to do that.

We have officially begun having AXIS again as of the 24th! We

have started a new four week series on the topic of “Authentic”. As I talked about in the December newsletter, “Authentic” was Merriam-Webster’s 2023 Word of The Year. I thought this would be a great time then to talk about maybe why that is. Why is our culture searching for authenticity so much? How does Christianity offer the world authenticity? How can we as Christ followers be as authentic as possible to a world hoping for us to fail? These are all question we are seeking to answer these four weeks. I can’t wait to update you on how it goes and what the Lord teaches us through it!



RAISING MISSIONARY KIDS

I remember when I was a kid at my home church in Hope, AR, we once had a missionary family from China come and speak at our church. Because they were there for the whole weekend, the children in the family ended up coming to Sunday School that morning. I remember talking to them and asking them questions about their family and all their travels and thinking, “Wow, these kids must have seen so much of the world and know so many things. They must be so much closer to God than me because their lives revolve around missions.”

Maybe you still sort of feel that way when hearing someone talk about their travels and mission work. However, with the world as connected and close as it is today, there is not much we do not know of

GEN Z LINGO

“Let him cook”; “Someone cooked here”; Statement - Cook is never to be used on it’s own, but is used to mean someone did a great job or something awesome. “Let him/her cook” is used in substitute now for “Go off”. Often times can be used in conjunction with “She ate that” although context for what that person did is necessary. “Someone cooked here” is more of a joke when there is obvious evidence that something is really cool or we know they did a good job.

Example 1: Stephen is preaching and dropping bars everywhere, but two kids won’t stop talking. Story leans over to them and says, “*Be quiet and let him cook!*”

Example 2: Stephen designs a super cool graphic for an upcoming event. Noah sees it and says, “*Someone cooked here*”

(Stephen is the one who cooked in both situations. The first was used in the moment, the second was after the fact as a complement/joke)

other peoples and their cultures. I think what surprises us most when hearing missionaries is how close they are each and every day to people who are not open to, or even hostile towards, the Gospel. Yet I know another person who lives a very similar life, someone you know very well, living right under your roof!

Did you know that Gen-Z, your preteen or teenager, is among the first unchurched generation in the history of America? The Joshua Project claims that “an ‘unreached people group’ is a cohort of people that lacks enough followers of Christ and resources to evangelize their own without some outside assistance.” Others classify an “unreached people group” as a group of people who have fewer than ten percent of their population who claim to be Christian. For the first time in U.S. history, we have a group of people that fit both of those definitions. Generation Z.

Now don’t panic, that doesn’t mean all hope is lost! In fact, it could be the best thing that has happened to the church in North America. but what this also means, is that your son or daughter no longer lives in a Christian culture like you may have. The culture they live in and must navigate everyday is one that is not only unwilling to listen to truth, but is hostile towards it. And so I turn to you. Have you thought about the world your preteen goes into every day when they leave your house or step out of the car? Are you aware that the symbol of the cross that they carry around with them is no longer cool, but in fact very offensive to most? Have you realized you are parenting a missionary?

Now this isn’t doom and gloom by any means, in fact your kid may be the most equipped person in your family to be a missionary! But whether we like it or not, if they have accepted the Gospel of Jesus, they are a missionary now. So we must then ask ourselves: How we raising this generation in the truth of God’s Word? How we raising them to shine a light in their world when everywhere they turn someone is trying to put it out? How do we teach them to prioritize the church and the importance of meeting with their church family?”

There are more things than ever that the enemy has strategically placed in our way of making church a priority. People and families have never been so busy than they are right now, and I can’t help but

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think that it would be so clever of the devil to place all of these things here to distract and push your little missionary off course. My prayer for you and your family is that the Lord would show you the best way to lead them that encourages and pushes them to be the best examples of Christ they can be in this culture. It will look different for everyone, but there is indeed a will that God has for your family. My prayer is that you will find that balance, alongside your church family, as you raise your own missionary kids.

Following His Lead,

Stephen Yates

Associate Pastor of Students and Young Adults

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Yates', written in a cursive style.

THEOLOGY 101

Holiness– The attribute of God that separates him from every other thing in the universe. Holiness is not just perfection, but the highest perfection. Holiness is the attribute we strive for the most which is gifted to us through God’s grace because of the work of Jesus. Leviticus 19:1–2; Isaiah 57:15; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:14–16;

Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:14