

Reset: Young Adults



As good news people in our place, the church has been called and empowered to be a united body across generations. In recent years, however, many churches have seen fewer young adults actively engaged in church life, which has led some to call them a ‘missing generation’ in our churches.

As you consider how to reconnect in community, these questions will help you to explore how a truly united community is connected through the various strands of church life. They’ll also help you to identify new opportunities to reach and disciple the next generation.

These questions are informed by data collected from our [Changing Church surveys](#) and refer to research further explored in our resource [Is the ‘missing generation’ still missing?](#)

Gathering

Kinnaman notes that “ages 18 to 29 are the black hole of church attendance”.

➔ With this in mind, how are you specifically encouraging this age group to attend your whole-church gatherings? Are your whole-church gatherings accessible, engaging and welcoming for this age group if they were to attend?

The welcome does not always start at the front doors of the church. For this digital generation, the online presence of a church is its new foyer. How do people find your church online? What do they see when they find it?

Programme

Young adults tend to be justice minded and incredibly driven, intentional and active in making change. ➔ How is your church seeking to engage young adults in its wider outreach and social action projects within the community?

➔ A generation whose commitment is often misunderstood, how might you collaborate with and delegate responsibility and ownership to young adults so that they can lead within your activities as you seek to restart your programme?

Small groups

Young adults value friendship and meaningful relationship, which the whole-church gathering may not cater to.

➔ How have you understood, communicated and encouraged the connection between the gathering and the small group, especially to young adults?

➔ As you look at the makeup of your small groups, do they encourage more peer-to-peer relationships or intergenerational relationships? What could you do that might create a healthy balance?

Leadership

➔ Young adults value integrity and authenticity; how does your leadership team create space for young adults to draw close and to see leaders 'walk the walk' with transparency? What does the mentoring of young adults look like in a church leadership setting?

➔ This generation places high value on leadership that works collaboratively. How well are you listening to young adults and allowing them to participate in the decision-making process of your leadership?

Scattered

Most young adults come to faith through the authentic witness of a Christian friend or colleague. ➔ How are you equipping and inspiring this age group to reach their friends in their everyday places?

➔ Seventy-five per cent of mental health-related issues begin in young adulthood. How well equipped are you as a church to support the mental health and wellbeing of this generation? What more could be done in this area?

Culture

➔ A recent Tearfund survey found that 30 per cent of all young adults have prayed at least once a month throughout the coronavirus pandemic. As this generation is more open to seeking the transcendent, how can you tap into this hunger to reach and disciple young adults?

➔ Young adults access and process information digitally, visually and through story. What are the implications for engaging this generation with the Bible? Does anything need to change you're your communication style as you teach young adults?

➔ How could your church help an already globally connected and socially aware generation engage further with cultural discourse in a biblical framework for justice and reconciliation?



Civic life

➔ As a generation that's passionate about making change and influencing societal structures for good, how might you facilitate young-adult engagement with local politicians, protest and public consultations as an act of worship and discipleship for young adults?

➔ How might you support and mentor your young adults to consider a career within the various sectors of civic life?

Local churches

➔ This generation has been dubbed 'the missing generation'. If your church does not have a large number of young adults, how could you join with other local churches to connect the young adults in your area?

➔ This generation of young adults needs to sense a strong identity of belonging to something bigger than themselves. How might regular unity initiatives with local churches strengthen the faith of young adults?

Local community

➔ Within your local area, what are the places and activities that attract young adults? Why is this?

➔ Assess your presence among young adults and how your church could work with them to create meaningful spaces within your community.

➔ In a season when elderly people have experienced extreme isolation, how might your church be a community that bridges generational gaps within your community? For example, form relationships with care homes or elderly people living alone.

As you have reflected on the good news people in your place graphic, identify three key action points as you reset the place of young adults within your church:

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