

# NextGen: Raising A Generation To Love Jesus

## **Week 1: Reaching The Next Generation For Jesus**

**Weekly Summary:** Based on Matthew 18, this message is meant to show us Jesus' heart for the next generation. In Matthew 18, Jesus warned against leading kids to sin or looking down on them. Even more importantly, he told a story about a desperate shepherd who was not willing that even a single lamb be lost. Application—While it's easy to stereotype and look down on other generations (in both directions!), our Father has a massive heart for those that are unlike you. This is good news, because it means that he has a massive heart for you!

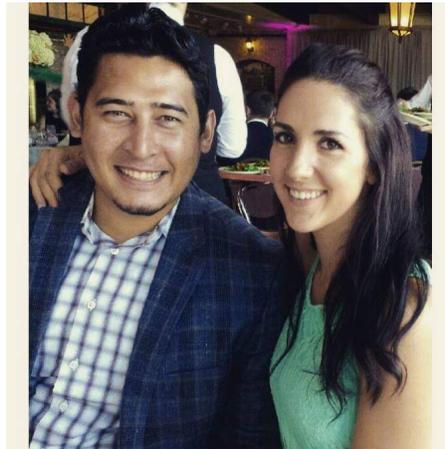
◆ Generation Z (born 1995-2012)

1. **Internet**
2. **Independent**
3. **Inclusive**
4. **In no hurry**
5. **Insecure**
6. **Irreligious**

◆ Matthew 18:12 - "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?"



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- ◆ Matthew 18:13 - “And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.”



- ◆ Matthew 18:14 - “In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”

### **Points to Ponder**

1. Describe what a church looks like that refuses to “leave the ninety-nine” to look for the wandering one. Why is the “stay and pray” strategy so tempting for Christians?
2. Read over Luke 15, Jesus’ famous teaching on the happiness God feels when lost things/people are found. Note two things you learn about the heart of God from these verses.
3. Take the first step in “leaving and looking” for someone you know that has wandered from the Christian faith. This might be a text, a coffee, an apology, or anything that expresses your genuine love for them as a person.

### **Homework For Next Week: Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

*“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”*

*~ Jesus*