

THE NEXT GREAT GENERATION

God can change the world through me

Next Great Generation

On Dec 7, 1941 this nation was attacked by Japan. That attack led our country into the horrors of WWII. That enemy, along with Hitler's Germany, threatened to destroy the world. The men and women of that generation sacrificed their own comfort and immediate futures to maintain the viability of this nation and the world for future generations. Through their sacrifice and their trust in God they led the world to defeat the combined armies of Japan and Germany. They then led the way to rebuild Europe after the devastation of the war.

Our nation and our world are under a more insidious attack today. The combined armies of an unholy spirit have undermined our families, communities, our churches, our nation and our world. The very survival of our future generations is at stake. We must declare ourselves the generation that will defeat this enemy. We must become known as the Next Great Generation.

Gulf South Men is challenging the Men of God in our nation to lead the way. The purpose of this course is to equip you, the Man of God, to save a nation. Use it as your catalyst in being the leader you were meant to be.

We not only can defeat this enemy but we can rebuild our families and our nation. We can once again be one nation under God. Yes, it will take sacrifice. Yes, it will take effort. God's word has guaranteed us the victory because we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ. The generation before us saved a nation and a world. We can save a people for all eternity. I challenge every man to join us in the fight. Your family, your church, your community and your nation are worth the fight. It is a fight we must win. Let us become known as the Next Great Generation.

The Challenge

Masculinity is in crisis and the souls of our men are at stake. Society has turned up its nose to biblical definitions of manhood. Men from all walks of life are struggling. Today men long for respect, purpose, and influence in their homes and communities, among their friends, and in the workplace. But many lack role models and a biblical road map for how to achieve their goals. As a result, more men than ever are facing isolation, loneliness, and depression. They suffer from addictions to porn, alcohol, and substance abuse. Men are struggling with purpose, faithlessness, narcissism, abuse, and disengagement from their families and God.



Now is the time for men to rise above the tide of culture and re-establish the servant leadership of men to their families. More than ever, the world needs men to reclaim their biblical role as servant leaders to their families, churches, and communities.

We are in a fight to save our nation for generations to come. To paraphrase Winston Churchill: Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can bridge the gap between the generations.

The Story

2 Ch 36:5-21 Jehoiakim [was] twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze [fetters] to carry him off to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also carried off [some] of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they [are] written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place. Jehoiachin [was] eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned [him] and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, [Jehoiakim's] brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem. Zedekiah [was] twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, [and] did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, [who spoke] from the mouth of the LORD. And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear [an oath] by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel. Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, [according] to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent [warnings] to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending [them], because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till [there was] no remedy. Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave [them] all into his hand. And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all [these] he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

Discussion

- 1) Describe the feelings you would have if you were one of those seeing Jerusalem for the first time in 70 years.

- 2) Are those feelings similar or different to the feelings you have now viewing the American landscape?

3) Many of the older people returning to Jerusalem would have memories of better times when they were young. Were their memories accurate? What do you think Jerusalem was really like when Jeremiah and the other prophets were warning the people?

4) Share some of your memories of American life when you were young.

5) Now consider some of the big news stories of the 60's and 70's. The assassinations of Pres. Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King; the race riots, the Vietnam war protests and so on. How do these stories compare with your memories of youth?

6) Make an honest assessment of the spiritual condition of the country you remember and the country we have now.

7) A psalm is a cry to God. Write a psalm to God expressing your concerns about today's America.

The Story

Ezra 1:1-8 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also [put it] in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which [is] in Judah. Who [is] among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which [is] in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He [is] God), which [is] in Jerusalem. And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which [is] in Jerusalem. Then the heads of the fathers' [houses] of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which [is] in Jerusalem. And all those who [were] around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all [that] was willingly offered. King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods; and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

Hag 2:3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, [is this] not in your eyes as nothing?

Discussion

- 1) What are some of the concerns or prayers you have concerning our church, our country and our younger generations?

- 2) Do you agree or disagree with the statement that we have everything we need to have victory? Explain your answer.

- 3) Why did the old men of ancient Jerusalem believe the new temple had to look like the Solomon's Temple?

- 4) What are some of your better memories of worship when you were younger?

5) 1 Chr 7 describes what happened when Solomon's temple was dedicated. "When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever." What a fantastic scene that must have been. Describe a time in your life when you sensed that kind of God's glory.

6) How can we guide our youth into that kind of glory without expecting it look and feel like the old days?

The Story

Ezr 10:1-2 Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly. And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, [one] of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this.

Hag 1:13 Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, "I [am] with you, says the LORD."

Phi 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Discussion

- 1) Describe some of the physical stresses the ancient Hebrews would have experienced that are associated with a lack of hope? i.e. lack of sleep, exhaustion etc.

- 2) Describe some of the emotional stresses they would have experienced that are associated with a lack of hope?

- 3) Compare these stresses with what our young people are experiencing today?

- 4) How did the elder generation returning to Jerusalem apply pressures that contributed to a lack of hope?

5) The younger generation returning to Jerusalem needed to rebuild the temple. It was a command from God. What are some ways the elders could have spoken this truth with encouragement?

6) The younger generation of today are in desperate need of worshiping God. What are some ways we can express that truth to them with encouragement?

7) How would you describe worship to a young man who has never experienced or seen true worship?

The Story

Ezra 2:68-69 [Some] of the heads of the fathers' [houses], when they came to the house of the LORD which [is] in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place: According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.

Ezra 3:2-3, 11 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as [it is] written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Though fear [had come] upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, [both] the morning and evening burnt offerings. ... And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For [He is] good, For His mercy [endures] forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Ps 71:17-18 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this [day] I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when [I am] old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to [this] generation, Your power to everyone [who] is to come.

Discussion:

- 1) Describe some of the things in life that genuinely stirs your passion. What kind of time, energy, effort and resources do you put into that passion?

- 2) If you could change one, and only one, thing about the culture around you what would it be?

- 3) What is stopping you from leading others to make that change?

- 4) Do you believe God can really work a "Red Sea Crossing" miracle by saving a generation today? Explain your answer

- 5) What would it look like if God gave you a passion for the next generation so overwhelming that you prayed Let me live one more day so I can tell them about Jesus?

The Story

Ezra 9:4-7 Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice. At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God. And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than [our] heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens. "Since the days of our fathers to this day we [have been] very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, [and] our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as [it is] this day.

Neh 1:4-6 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned [for many] days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, [You] who keep [Your] covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, "please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

Discussion:

- 1) Why was it important for Ezra to pray Father forgive us rather than Father forgive them?

- 2) Ezra had not actually committed the sins of the fathers. He wasn't even there. Was he guilty of the sins? Explain your answer.

- 3) As an elder Ezra accepted responsibility for the conditions of the city. How did accepting that responsibility change the way he prayed? Why was his prayer able to spur him into action?

- 4) What was your first thought when I said we baby boomers created the current society?

- 5) What do you think it will take for us to lead our nation into a relationship with Jesus Christ? What can each individual one of us do to be part of that great revival?

The Story

2 Chr 7:12-14 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Heb 11:1-3, 37-39 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a [good] testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ... They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, [in] dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

Discussion:

- 1) What are some of the struggles the elder Hebrews would face in order keep their focus on rebuilding the temple?

- 2) How do they compare to the struggles faced by the elder people of today?

- 3) It was at least 90 years after being released from captivity before the wall was completed. What motivated the people not lose heart?

- 4) How can we motivate people today not lose heart in their pursuit of a relationship with God?

5) Why is it so tempting to think I've done my job let someone else take it from here? How can we work through those feelings?

6) Be honest with yourself. Are you willing to pray, work and believe God for a miracle that you might not witness in this lifetime?

7) How can we lead others to join us in the battle for the souls of our families, our churches and our nation?



After completing this video course let me challenge you to take the Right Next Steps. There are millions of men in our country and in our world that are desperate to have a Man of God speak into their lives.

- Don't allow completing this course to be the last step. Be intentional in establishing another small group of men and lead them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Lead a group of other older men who can become leaders of young men.
- Work with your pastor to establish or strengthen the men's ministry in your church. You be the one who says "I will do my part to save a generation".
- Visit the GS Men web site at gulfsouthmen.org. There you will find additional E-Course and video series material that will challenge you and equip you to become a great leader and a great Man of God.
- Log into the GS Men website and provide your feedback .