

CM 301 Ministry to Generation Z

CMI Online Course Syllabus

I. Course Purpose

Cultural changes have affected the communication methods needed to reach the current generation with the Gospel of Christ. The children who participate in *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® ministries are predominately unchurched. It is not surprising that these children do not have a solid biblical foundation or Christian worldview. In the past, most children, even unchurched children, knew something about God and His Word. That is no longer the case. Only four percent of teens in the Generation Z cohort claim a biblical worldview. This fact makes it essential for those who minister to children to grow in their awareness of the culture of Generation Z children and to adapt their teaching resources and methodologies in ways that provide a clear and culturally relevant explanation. The overall focus of this twelve-week course is to help you recognize the need and identify ways that Generation Z children can best receive, process, and respond to biblical truth.

II. Biblical Rationale

For a person of any age and from any generation to come to Christ, that person must first encounter the Gospel in a way that they can understand. Saving faith comes through the hearing of the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Every child of every generation must have the opportunity to hear the Word of God, process the truth presented, and then respond. It is not God's will that one child should perish (Matt. 18:14). That includes the children of Generation Z!

Generations are noteworthy in Scripture. The term is used throughout English translations of the Old Testament 167 times using various Hebrew words. The listings of generations serve to connect the patriarchal promises of blessing given to the nation of Israel with the Creator, as well as to future generations and nations that He would bless. God's redemptive plan unfolds throughout biblical history from generation to generation. Each generation is responsible for teaching the next generation the will and ways of God (Deut. 6:1-5; Psalm 78:1-8). Failure to share God's Word with the next generation is sure to bring devastating results like those described in Judges 2:10-11: "there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord..."¹

Biblical listings of generations ended with the culminating genealogies of Christ found in Matthew and Luke. As the body of the Messiah formed in the womb of the Virgin Mary, she praised the Lord saying:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation (Luke 1:46-50).

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in this syllabus are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The success of this course will be rooted in Scripture and credited to the One “who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Eph. 3:20-21).

III. Prerequisites

You must be a born-again Christian

You must be a minimum age of 18 (for CMI Online courses)

Completion of *Teaching Children Effectively*™ Level 1 and Level 2 before enrolling in this advanced course is recommended.

IV. Course Objectives

Through the online Ministry to Generation Z course, you will grow in your awareness of the culture of Generation Z children and learn ways to adapt your teaching resources and methodologies in clear and culturally relevant ways. The following specific objectives will help you reach these goals:

- A. You will commit to praying for Generation Z children, recognizing their need for dependence on God in reaching children for Christ in a post-Christian context.
- B. You will complete a pre-course quiz, answering questions that show your knowledge of Generation Z characteristics. You will complete a similar post-course quiz that will demonstrate your increased understanding of Generation Z children.
- C. You will develop an understanding of the Generation Z culture by reading three recommended books on the topic, writing a reflective summary of the content of that book, and interacting with other students regarding information shared from the books they read.
- D. You will examine Scripture passages regarding generations and explain how these texts apply to ministry related to children of future generations.
- E. You will survey Generation Z children in real-world settings, comparing your findings to research studies you have read regarding the Generation Z cohort.
- F. You will develop a Gospel presentation appropriate for Generation Z children and then present the Gospel to a Generation Z child (or group of children) in a real-world setting.
- G. You will develop a Christian Growth presentation appropriate for Generation Z children and then present that teaching to a Christian Generation Z child (or group of children) in a real-world setting.

V. Instructional procedures

A portion of the course content will be delivered in video format. Links to additional resources will be provided. Your learning will be enhanced by reading books related to Generation Z and discussing the content in online forums. Researched Scripture passages will also be discussed in online forums. You will gain first-hand knowledge of Generation Z children as you complete surveys and summarize the results. You will then share your findings in an online forum discussion. You will also discover how to adapt your teaching

methods and materials in ways that are culturally relevant by developing and implementing evangelistic and growth teaching for Generation Z children.

VI. Course materials

You are responsible for securing the books required for this course. Sections 1, 3, and 4 provide lists of the recommended books. You are required to read **one** book (your preference) from each section. You will make your preference known through a Choice Activity within the course. The number of students who read the same book will be limited. Each student will summarize the book they read in a forum discussion post, providing everyone an overview of each book recommended for each section.

Section 1 (Weeks 1-3 of the course):

- *Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation*, by Barna Group and Impact 360 Institute
- *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood*, by Jean M. Twenge
- *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*, by James Emery White

Section 3 (Weeks 7-9 of the course):

- *A New Kind of Apologist*, edited by Sean McDowell
- *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family*, by Dr. Kara E. Powell

Section 4 (Weeks 10-12 of the course):

- *Mama Bear Apologetics*, by Hillary Morgan Ferrer
- *Faith for Exiles*, by David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock
- *So the Next Generation Will Know*, by Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace

VII. Participation policies

You can anticipate spending six to eight hours per week on course activities and assignments. This includes time spent watching the videos that deliver course content, reading the assigned books, participating in forum discussions, and completing other practical coursework.

The expectation is that all assignments, including forum posts, be submitted on time. Failure to submit assignments on time will negatively affect grades. In the case of an emergency or other extenuating circumstances, contact your online instructor before the assignment is due to arrange for a late submission.

Participation in the forum discussions and live chats should be characterized by Christian courtesy. You may disagree with another student's (or instructor's) point of view, but

respectfully. Read the communication section of the student handbook for more details about forum, chat, and email expectations. Failure to post forum items on time affects not only you but also your classmates and their learning. Therefore, late forum posts will negatively affect your grade.

At the end of the first week, the course will be reviewed to determine if you are actively participating. If there is no evidence of participation, you will be dropped from the course roster. If you have problems accessing the website or the forum during the first week, promptly contact the CMI Online Administrator at 1-800-300-4033 ext. 1313.

VIII. Grading policies and information

You are encouraged to strive for excellence in every aspect of your training to bring honor to the Lord and to develop to your full potential. Assignments will be graded according to the evaluation criteria of the course. All assignments earn points that determine the final course grade. Please refer to the downloadable grading rubrics included in the online Grading Policies and Information section of the course for information on how forums and projects will be evaluated.

All assignments must be posted or submitted by 11:55 PM Central Time of the day the assignment is due. In cases where the student consistently misses assignment due dates, the student may be withdrawn from the class without remuneration. The final grade for this course will be based on a 1,000 point scale. Each assignment is weighted based on the percentage of the total grade.

Assignment	Percentage	Point Value
Prayer Team Assignment	8%	80
Reading and Forum Discussions	30%	300
Field Study Questionnaires	20%	200
Gospel Presentation Project	20%	200
Growth Presentation Project	20%	200
Final Quiz	2%	20
TOTAL	100%	1,000

IX. Learning outcomes and activities for each week

The following information can serve as a checklist as you navigate through the course. Printing this checklist and checking off each activity or assignment as they are completed will help keep you on track throughout the course. Each three-week section of the course begins on a Tuesday and ends on a Monday.

Before the course begins

- ☐ Update your profile on the CMI Learning Management System.
- ☐ Order course materials. (Books are listed in the Ordering Course Materials section of the course.)
- ☐ Secure a team of three to five prayer partners.
- ☐ Complete the Pre-Course Quiz located in the Pre-Course Activities section of the online course.

Section 1 (Weeks 1-3 of the course)

The coursework found in Section 1 will provide you with a good understanding of the characteristics of the Generation Z cohort. You will select and read one book from the Section 1 reading list and summarize what you learned from the book in a forum discussion post. Your classmates will do the same, allowing you to benefit from their reading. You will want to read your book and post your summary during the first week of Section 1 so that there will be time to converse with your classmates. The forum rubric will provide grading details.

Each course section will include a live 30-minute Zoom chat session. Please be prepared to bring your questions regarding the course to the chat. Because we will not be able to accommodate everyone's schedules, the live chat is optional. A recording will be shared with everyone in the course.

Your assignments and activities for this section will be described below in the recommended order of completion. You may track your progress through each lesson and topic within the online course. A downloadable course calendar is also provided for you in the Course Planning Documents section of the course that you can use as a visual reminder of assignment due-dates.

- ☐ Introduce yourself to the class by posting in the Section 1-A Forum. (This first forum does not carry as much weight toward your final grade as the other forums, but will help you to understand the forum discussion process. Please complete by Friday of the first week of the course. You will need to respond to at least two of your classmates' posts by the first Monday of the course.)
- ☐ Watch the Ministry to Generation Z Video presented by Reese Kauffman.
- ☐ Connect and pray with your prayer team. Write a brief journal that includes when, where, and items of prayer.
- ☐ Participate in a live chat with your instructor and classmates! (See details in Section 1 of the online course.)
- ☐ After reading your Section 1 book, post your summary in the Section 1-B Forum (Due the third Tuesday of Section 1).
- ☐ Read all Section 1-B Forum posts. Reply to any responses made to your original post.
- ☐ Respond to at least one of the original posts that summarize each of the books that you did not choose to read—a total of two required posts. Continue to engage in conversation with your classmates in ways that encourage more in-depth learning.

Section 2 (Weeks 4-6 of the course)

In Section 2, you will expand your understanding of generations from a biblical perspective. The video session that you watch will lay a solid foundation. You will also select one of five Scripture passages that you will study in greater detail. Summarize the insights you gained from the Scripture passage in a forum discussion post. Your classmates will do the same, allowing you to benefit from their studies. You will want to post your summary during the first week of Section 2 so that there will be time to converse with your classmates. The forum rubric will provide grading details.

In Section 2, you will also interview five Generation Z children in the eight-to-twelve age range using the questionnaire provided. This activity will help you understand the worldview of these children. As you review your completed questionnaires, note trends that you see in this age group that may differ

from the characteristics identified in your reading from Section 1. You will share and compare your findings with your classmates in a forum discussion.

Your assignments and activities for this section will be described below in the recommended order of completion. You may track your progress through each lesson and topic within the online course. A downloadable course calendar is also provided for you in the Course Planning Documents section of the course that you can use as a visual reminder of assignment due-dates.

- ☐ Watch the Ministry to Generation Z from a Biblical Perspective Video presented by John Luck.
- ☐ Connect and pray with your prayer team. Write a brief journal that includes when, where, and items of prayer.
- ☐ Participate in a live chat with your instructor and classmates! (See details in Section 2 of the online course.)
- ☐ After studying the Scripture passage you selected, post your summary in the Section 2-A Forum (Due the second Tuesday of Section 2).
- ☐ Read all Section 2-A Forum posts. Respond to any responses made to your original post by the second Friday of Section 2.
- ☐ Secure parental permission and schedule your five Generation Z interviews.
- ☐ Conduct your five Generation Z interviews and upload completed questionnaires to the course.
- ☐ Post a summary of your interview observations in the Section 2-B Forum (Due the third Tuesday of Section 2).
- ☐ Respond to at least two original Section 2-A Forum posts related to a Scripture passages other than the one you summarized. Continue to engage in conversation with your classmates in ways that encourage more in-depth learning.
- ☐ Respond to at least two Section 2-B Forum posts related to the Generation Z interviews. Note trends that you see in this age group that may differ from the characteristics identified in Section 1. Identify and discuss the worldview(s) of the children interviewed. Challenge your classmates to an in-depth conversation!

Section 3 (Weeks 7-9 of the course)

In Section 3, you will learn practical ways to engage Generation Z children in biblical truth that leads them toward a biblical worldview. You will select and read one book from the Section 3 reading list and summarize what you learned from the book in a forum discussion post. Focus on discovering evangelistic strategies that might apply to the Gospel presentation you will develop. Your classmates will do the same, allowing you to benefit from their reading. You will want to read your book and post your summary during the first week of Section 3, using the Section 3-A Forum, so that there will be time to converse with your classmates and think about your Gospel presentation project. The forum rubric will provide grading details.

In Section 3, you will develop a Gospel presentation appropriate for sharing with Generation Z children. This presentation may be a tract, an object lesson, or an evangelistic tool. Be creative! After developing your Gospel presentation, you will use it to present the Gospel to a Generation Z child or group of children and post a summary of your real-world teaching experience in the Section 3-B Forum.

Your assignments and activities for this section will be described below in the recommended order of completion. You may track your progress through each lesson and topic within the online course. A downloadable course calendar is also provided for you in the Course Planning Documents section of the course that you can use as a visual reminder of assignment due-dates.

- ☐ In the Choice Activity, select the Section 3 book you will read.
- ☐ Watch the Ministry to Generation Z-The Evangelism Challenge Video presented by Dean Hunsucker.
- ☐ Connect and pray with your prayer team. Write a brief journal that includes when, where, and items of prayer.
- ☐ Participate in a live chat with your instructor and classmates! (See details in Section 3 of the online course.)
- ☐ After reading your Section 3 book, post your summary in the Section 3-A Forum (Due the second Tuesday of Section 3).
- ☐ Read all Section 3-A Forum posts. Respond to at least two other original post and reply to all responses made to your original post (Due the second Friday of Section 3).
- ☐ Develop a Gospel presentation appropriate for a Generation Z child and submit a detailed script (with images or a video if necessary).
- ☐ Share the Gospel with a Generation Z child (or group of children) using the Gospel project you created and describe the experience in the Section 3-B Forum.
- ☐ Respond to at least three original Section 3-B Forum posts. Continue to reply to any responses made to your original post and engage in conversation with your classmates in ways that encourage more in-depth learning.

Section 4 (Weeks 10-12 of the course)

In Section 4, you will learn practical ways to engage Generation Z believers in biblical truth that strengthens their biblical worldview and helps them to grow strong in their faith. You will select and read one book from the Section 4 reading list and summarize what you learned from the book in a forum discussion post. Focus on discovering teaching strategies that might apply to the Christian Growth presentation you will develop. Your classmates will do the same, allowing you to benefit from their reading. You will want to read your book and post your summary during the first week of Section 4, using the Section 4-A Forum, so that there will be time to converse with your classmates and think about your Christian Growth presentation project. The forum rubric will provide grading details.

In Section 4, you will develop a Christian Growth presentation appropriate for sharing with Generation Z children. This presentation may be a tract, an object lesson, or a growth teaching tool. Be creative! After developing your Christian Growth presentation, you will use it to teach a Christian Growth principle to a saved Generation Z child or group of saved children and post a summary of your real-world teaching experience in the Section 4-B Forum.

Your assignments and activities for this section will be described below in the recommended order of completion. You may track your progress through each lesson and topic within the online course. A downloadable course calendar is also provided for you in the Course Planning Documents section of the course that you can use as a visual reminder of assignment due-dates.

- ☐ Watch the Ministry to Generation Z-The Discipleship Challenge Video presented by David Bachelder.

- ☐ Connect and pray with your prayer team. Write a brief journal that includes when, where, and items of prayer.
- ☐ Participate in a live chat with your instructor and classmates! (See details in Section 3 of the online course.)
- ☐ After reading your Section 4 book, post your summary in the Section 4-A Forum (Due the second Tuesday of Section 4).
- ☐ Read all Section 4-A Forum posts. Respond to at least two original posts and reply to all responses made to your original post.
- ☐ Develop a Christian Growth presentation appropriate for a Generation Z child and submit a detailed script (with images or a video if necessary).
- ☐ Share the Christian Growth presentation with a saved Generation Z child (or group of saved children) using the Christian Growth project you created and describe the experience in the Section 4-B Forum.
- ☐ Respond to at least two original Section 4-B Forum posts. Continue to reply to any responses made to your original post and engage in conversation with your classmates in ways that encourage more in-depth learning.

**You have reached the end of the Ministry to Generation Z course on CMI Online!
Congratulations! May the Lord bless your ministry to children of this generation!**